



Horses



**Concise and
Informative**

Horses

by [illegible]

Horses

Recognising and Identifying

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"Happiness is sitting on the back of a horse"

"When the Creator wanted to make the horse, He said to the wind: I want you to beget a creature that will be able to carry my worshippers. All of My slaves shall love this creature, and all of those who act against My commandments shall fear it. And He created the horse and said to him: I have created you to be unequal to every other being. All the treasures of the world lie between your eyes. You shall stamp My enemies under your foot, but you shall carry My friends on your back, and your back will be the seat from whence prayers will rise up to me. On the whole earth, you shall be happy and preferred to every other creature of this earth; because you are loved by the Master of the Creation. You shall fly without wings, and gain victory without bearing a sword."

This is one of the numerous records that have remained of Mohammed ("The Praised One", AD 570–632). Mohammed was not only the founder of Islam, he also founded the Arab Thoroughbred breed.

The horse has been worshipped as a holy animal not only by the Muslims; the ancient Germanic peoples worshipped it, too. The magic inherent in these animals has lost none of its power to this day. On horseback, we can flee everyday life and its troubles and let our thoughts wander freely. Especially out in open nature, we feel a little bit closer to heaven and paradise.

Since the approach to horses has changed greatly in recent decades, the breeding programmes have also changed towards developing a "versatile riding horse". Accordingly, this book is arranged into the groups workhorses and horses for sports, and the latter is divided once more into two parts dealing with large horses on the one hand and ponies and small horses on the other.



Horse Breeds and Categories

Thoroughbred, Warm-blood or Cold-blood

Our horse breeds can be divided into three different horse types: the thoroughbred, the warm-blood, and the cold-blood. Or that's how we all learnt it. But the borderlines between the various types aren't as easy to make out as some dictionaries might have it. There you might read that cold-bloods are simply "good-humoured, heavy workhorses with a dense mane and feathering on the legs", while warm-bloods are characterised as "lively riding horses crossed with the blood of a thoroughbred" and thoroughbreds, or hot-bloods, are stated to be "delicately built and slightly nervous horses predominantly used for horse races". But due to changing demands, over the course of time the breeding programmes were altered, which means that there are no more clean-cut dividing lines between the types.

Cold-blood or Not?

In biological terms, cold-bloods are "animals with a changing body temperature that is entirely



dependent on the temperature of their surrounding, rising and falling accordingly". This holds true for fish, amphibious creatures, and reptiles. But the body temperature of a cold-blood horse is usually 38.5 °C (101.3 °F) and it only rises if the horse has fever. They can start to sweat just as much as warm-bloods or thoroughbreds, and they can just as well shiver when they are cold. But it is a piece of work to "make their blood boil", because they are exceedingly calm, a trait that already shows by their looks. They have sturdier and broader bodies than other horse breeds and their musculature is more developed. In other languages, cold-bloods are usually referred to as "heavy horses". And to

make things even more confusing, in Germany the Haflinger, which was originally a cold-blood, is classified as a pony or small horse. But of course the small horses are also divided into cold-bloods and halfbreds.

What is a Thoroughbred?

When turning to the "higher nobility" among horses, the definitions are not any easier to make.

Some dictionaries read that a thoroughbred is "generally speaking a pure animal breed, without admixture of other breeds".

But when it comes to horses, the British General Stud Book is still the measure of all things. In volume 40, page XI, the conditions of entry into the studbook—which have been adapted by various other countries, too—are defined as follows:



"A) To be eligible to be registered in the General Stud Book a horse must be able either:

(1) To be traced down all lines of its pedigree to horses registered before 1st January 1980 in (a) The General Stud Book and or (b) other studbooks (listed).

OR (2) to prove satisfactorily eight recorded crosses consecutively with horses qualified as in category 1 above, including the cross of which it is the progeny. Horses in categories 1 and 2 above are designated 'Thoroughbred'."



Horse Breeds and Categories

The True Thoroughbreds

In other words, a Thoroughbred can only be an Arab Thoroughbred or an English Thoroughbred. Mohammed is held to be the founder of the Arab Thoroughbred. The basic stock were his five favourite mares, with whom he began breeding the Arab Thoroughbred in AD 622. The founder of Islam made it a religious duty that his followers breed only horses of "pure blood". Today, the only horses that may be called Arab Thoroughbred are those whose papers have been signed or acknowledged by the WAHO (World Arabian Horse Organization). The second dynasty of thoroughbreds did not develop until the 18th century, in Britain. The basic stock of this breed were the three sires "Darley Arabian", "Byerley Turk", and "Godolphin

Arabian", who were put to approximately 50 local mares. These three stallions became known as the "foundation stallions" and are the direct ancestors of nearly 80% of today's thoroughbreds, often only in the proven fifth or sixth generation. But only those horses may be called "English Thoroughbred" that are descendants of the horses registered in the "General Stud Book, I" dating from 1793. As a "patent of nobility", thoroughbreds carry two small letters behind their name—"ox" for the purebred Arab Thoroughbred, "xx" for the English Thoroughbred. Where these letters come from and what they exactly mean, not even experts know. In the old Prussian studbooks of Trakehner horses, those stallions used for an improvement of the blood until the year 1900 were noted with the letters "O.V." for Oriental Thoroughbred, "E.V." for English Thoroughbred, and "G.V." for composite breed, called Anglo-Arabs. These letters were later turned into **. Dr. Peter Bormann of the German "Direktorium für Vollblutzucht und Rennen e.V." (board of directors for thoroughbred breeding and racing) presumes that the two ** signs were later replaced by "ox" and "xx".



The Half-Bloods

Apart from purebreds there are also Anglo-Arabs, horses which have descended from English and Arab Thoroughbreds but are not strictly speaking purebred, but half-bred, like those horses that are half thoroughbred and half warm-blood and are thus allowed to wear a single letter behind their names, an "x" or an "o", as well as breeds which are "high in blood". This means, their ancestors were purebred horses. But although they are very noble-looking creatures, breeds such as Akhal-Teke, Andalusian, or Barb, who also have a noble heritage and might have been purebred for centuries, they are not permitted to be called thoroughbreds, because they can neither trace a line back to the five mares of Mohammed nor to the descendants of those horses registered and published in the "General Stud Book, I".

The Warm-Bloods

Between the cold-blood gentry and the fiery higher nobility lies the wide class of warm-bloods. They make up the larger part of today's horse breeds. The warm-bloods consist of all halfbred horses (including those breeds with two or one purebred par-



ents) as well as the warm-blood breeds with various degrees of purebred parentage. They are widely employed as riding and sporting horses as well as being hitched to carriages. In nearly every country, warmblood breeds were developed by crossing indigenous mares with stallions of Arab descent. Next to Arab Thoroughbreds, the stallions preferred were Turkoman, Barb, and Persian, later joined of course by the English Thoroughbred.

Small Horses and Ponies

Aegidienberger

Origin

Rhineland/Germany

Colours

all colours

Exterior

13.3 to 14.3 hands; strong small horse; Icelandic type; elegant, square head; dense mane and tail

Use

pleasure horse



History and Origins

The Aegidienberger was created out of the desire to combine the calm, easy to handle character of the Icelandic pony with the size and comfortable gaits of the Paso Peruano. The mixture of 5/8 Icelandic blood and 3/8 blood of the Peruano was developed in the stud of Aegidienberg near Cologne, Germany.

Temperament and Talent

The Aegidienberger possesses the rack and is eager to perform, displaying good stamina. It is nearly as robust as the Icelandic, but can tolerate warmer temperatures more easily. The handsome small horse is a loyal and loveable leisure time partner.

Assateague Pony

Origin

USA

Colours

mostly piebald, skewbald, grey

Exterior

approximately 12.0 hands; no standard type

Use

coach and saddle horse for children



History and Origin

A shipwreck off the east coast of North America settled their fortune. When in the 16th century one of the Spanish ships which were on their way to the "New World" stranded off the coast of Virginia, some horses managed to survive by swimming to the Isle of Assateague. On this little island, the ponies found their paradise, because humans are only permitted to tread the ground here if they are members of the fire brigade of the neighbouring island, Chincoteague. Approximately 120 ponies live on Assateague. But once a year, things get serious for some of these animals. Every last Wednesday to Friday in July, the surplus

yearlings are rounded up and then are made to swim to the neighbouring island, through a channel made up of boats. The locals call this "Pony Penning" and it is a festive day for them. The ponies are then auctioned off, and although they are said to be very obstinate and stubborn, it is not unusual for one to fetch a price of up to 500 US dollars.

Temperament and Talent

Because, like all ponies living in the wild, they are exceedingly sound, sturdy, and inured against changes in climate. However, in order to turn an Assateague into a good coach and children's riding pony, a lot of patience and persistence is required.

Bosnian

Origin

Bosnia, Herzegovina

Colours

bay, chestnut, grey; black; rarely dun

Exterior

12.3 to 13.3 hands; strong back; sloping croup; level withers



Use

pack and draught horse; pleasure and endurance riding

History and Origins

The Bosnian, also called Bosnian Mountain Horse, is the most important breed of small horses in the Balkan countries. It is indispensable there as a pack and draught horse, but is also used as a saddle horse. During the reign of the Turks, but also in the times of the Austrian monarchy, this mountain horse, which resembles the Tarpan, was admixed with a lot of Oriental and Turkish blood. Whereas its sturdiness and gentle character goes back to the indigenous mares, the light and yet powerful body is inherited from the Arab progenitors. The Bosnian is being strictly purebred for several years now. The Bosnian goes back in lineage to the three sires "Misko", "Barut", and "Agan", which in 1933 applied their prepotency in the main stud farm of Borike.

Temperament and Talent

Since the 1960s, the Bosnian has become a popular saddle horse in Western Europe, too, being exceedingly well suited for endurance and trekking or trail riding.

Connemara

Origin

Ireland

Colours

mostly grey; also dun, buckskin, bay, black; rarely chestnut and palomino, no piebald or skewbald

Exterior

13.1 to 14.2 hands; long, rectangular body; long shoulder; pronounced but not too striking withers; good girth; upper body very elastic; medium long, slight-

ly sloping croup, tail set not too high; good thighs; oval to round-oval rib cage; wide chest; sufficiently long neck, getting slimmer towards the head; medium large, not too long head; friendly eyes; medium long ears set sufficiently apart; nose straight to slightly convex; medium long cannons; well-defined, dry joints; hard, well-formed hooves

Use

multi-purpose pony that is suitable for teenagers and adults in all equestrian events, whether riding or harness divisions; sure-footed



cross-country horse with a good talent for hunting and eventing

History and Origins

It is presumed that the Connemara ponies were brought along by the Celtic people, who began to settle in the south-west of England and in Ireland in the 5th century BC. In other regions they were later replaced by large horses, but in the rough and inhospitable marshlands and mountainous regions along the west coast of Ireland called the Connemara, these indestructible small horses defied both the weather and mankind. Through centuries of natural breeding selection, an exceptionally hardy and tough horse evolved. Towards the end of the 16th century, the blood of Spanish Jenetts was introduced. According to legend, these equines landed in the area after the wreck of the Spanish Armada in 1588. In recent years, the registered Connemara breed has been intercrossed with Arab and English Thoroughbred blood. This resulted in famous show jumpers such as "Dundrum", foaled from a Connemara mare and the English Thoroughbred stallion "Little Heaven". Although only standing to 14.1 hands, "Dundrum" easily

managed to go clear over fences with a height of 7 feet.

Temperament and Talent

The Connemara is nimble and sure-footed, and a horse that likes jumping. It is tough and has great stamina, comfortable gaits, a friendly disposition, and a very calm temperament. These wiry horses are ideal pleasure companions, not only for children. They have also proven their abilities as polo and hunting ponies.

Dales Pony

Origin

Great Britain

Colours

black, dark brown, grey

Exterior

14.0 to 14.2 hands; strong, very muscular back; oblique shoulder; wide chest; tail set fairly low; strong bones; hard, open hooves; dense mane and tail; very fine feathers; short, powerful neck; small, dry head; small ears; energetic stride due to the powerful hindquarters; high knee action

Use

multi-purpose horse



History and Origins

This exceedingly powerful small horse with a typical pony-type head belongs to one of the largest pony breeds in Great Britain. The appearance of the Dales pony resembles that of its smaller relative, the Fell pony. Of Celtic origin, for centuries it served the farmers in the mountains of north-eastern England as a loyal draught and saddle horse. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the Dales pony was primarily employed as a packhorse, transporting lead from the mines to the coast.

In the 19th century, the famous Welsh Cob stallion "Comet" came to Northern England, winning one trotting race after the other, and was put to Dales mares. Due to mechanisation in the 1950s, only few breeders remained who would promote this charming breed. Unfortunately, most of the animals ended up in the slaughterhouse. The pony trekking meant a chance for survival for the Dales pony.

Temperament and Talent

The robust and yet very sensitive creature is tractable, eager to

Small Horses and Ponies

work, lively, and nimble-footed in spite of its rather stocky build. Dales ponies are ideal trekking horses for adults and are held in high esteem as endurance ponies, especially in Great Britain.

Dartmoor Pony

Origin

Dartmoor/England

Colours

mostly bay, dark brown, black; fewer grey and chestnut; no piebald or skewbald; small white markings permissible

Exterior

11.1 to 12.2 hands; good depth of girth; sufficiently muscled back and croup; chest ample and deep; back not too short; dry foundation; strong, powerful joints; hardy cannons; sufficiently arched, well set on neck; small, elegant head; broad forehead; small ears; large, friendly, expressive eyes

Use

saddle pony for young novices; seldom harness pony; small hunting and eventing pony; especially suited for disabled children



History and Origins

This pony is native to the rugged region in the south-west of England to which it owes its name: Dartmoor. An area covering 232 square miles (600 square km) of bogs, moorland, and granite rocks, where the rain doesn't fall but blows in your face, driven across the country from the Atlantic Ocean or from the Channel. The region was turned into a nature reserve in 1951, and only two roads lead through Dartmoor. Now as centuries ago, this barren land belongs to the sheep and the ponies, who still roam the countryside in feral or semi-feral herds. The moor for them has always been the best place to seek cover. This is why the small, hardy animals survived the decree of King Henry VIII who wanted to have all horse breeds standing to less than 14 hands extinguished. Years later, people were glad about the small-sized Dartmoor ponies because they needed them to work in the narrow tin mines, and about 100 years ago they were even crossed with Shetland stallions left to roam on the moors. World War II also turned out to be a dangerous time for the ponies, because Dartmoor was chosen to be a military training camp.

Thanks to the Dartmoor Pony Society and its affiliated breeders, the Dartmoor Pony was saved from extinction. The pony type, which was not very homogenous in the late 19th century, was standardised and registered in a studbook, established in 1899. In 1961, the breed had increased so much that strict regulations were applied for entry in the studbook.

Temperament and Talent

The good-natured and relaxed ponies are fast and enduring saddle horses for children and are also suitable for eventing. They are also becoming increasingly popular on the continent and in the USA.

German Riding Pony

Origin

Germany; evolved from English pony breeds as well as Arab, Anglo-Arab and warm-bloods



Small Horses and Ponies

Colours

all colours

Exterior

13.2 to 14.2 hands; dry, correct foundation; more of a saddle horse type than other breeds; long neck; high, long withers; longish croup, slightly sloping with the tail set not too high

Use

saddle and eventing pony for children; harness pony

since been popular, this breed has been created in Germany about 30 years ago. In order to combine the size and good qualities of a pony with a more elegant and nobler appearance and create a versatile sporting pony for teenagers, ponies were crossed with large horses. Although there is a standardised breeding goal, "mixtures" can vary from region to region, which means that the outer appearance of the German Riding Pony is not very homoge-



History and Origins

The German Riding Pony has many parents, because several pony breeds were involved in creating it. Following the examples set in the USA and Great Britain, where "riding ponies" have long

nous yet. Most of the German Riding Ponies have a lineage of old, hardy Mountain and Moorland breeds such as Welsh, New Forest, and Connemara. To upgrade the blood, Arabs, Anglo-Arabs, and Thoroughbred as well

as one or the other warm-blood (e.g. Trakehner) were admixed. However, Haflinger, Icelandic, Fjord, and Shetland ponies are not permitted by the breeding society.

Temperament and Talent

The German Riding Pony is an excellent saddle horse for children and an ideal sporting and eventing horse for teenagers. It is undemanding, has a good-natured character, is willing and eager to perform, courageous, and has a very relaxed temperament. This "noble pony" is equally suited for jumping and dressage as for harness divisions. Similar to large horses, it has long, ground-covering action. It is the second most popular German pony breed, after the Haflinger.

Dülmen

Origin

North-Rhine Westphalia/Germany

Colours

dun in all shades; markings of feral species

Exterior

12.3 to 13.3 hands; moderately defined withers; oblique shoul-



der; elastic, well muscled back; often slightly steep croup; wide chest; well-rounded rib cage and good depth of girth; rectangular form; neck sufficiently long, slightly arched, well set on; medium large, expressive head; broad forehead; straight to slightly dished nasal peak; large, intelligent eyes; small ears; dry, well-defined joints; solid canons, pasterns not too long; muscular hindquarter set in a good angle

Use

multi-purpose family horse; well suited for riding, as a coach and endurance horse



History and Origins

The "wild horses of Dülmen" are Germany's last remaining free horses living out in the open. From a zoological point of view, they are not truly wild but have simply run wild. For instance, they lack the typical upright mane, but they do have the dun or mouse-grey coloured coat with the dorsal stripe which is so typical for wild horses. A document dating from 1316 already tells us of the existence of the Dülmen ponies.

At the time, the Lord of Merfeld claimed not only the rights for fishing and hunting game, but he

also claimed ownership over the "wild horses". Whenever the estates were divided in later years, word was always mentioned of the horses. In the course of the centuries, foreign blood was introduced from various stallions originating from similarly wild breeds, among them Konik, Exmoor, Huzul, and Pyrenees horses. When the region was once more divided in 1856 and in the hands of the Duke of Croy, only 20 specimens lived on the enclosure measuring approximately 150,000 acres. However, the duke and his family lovingly kept up the wild stud for many generations. Today, about 300

horses live in an enclosure of 865 acres (350 ha), called Merfelder Bruch. This is an extensive area covered with forest, bog, and moorland, situated west of the city of Dülmen. Here, the animals live and graze out in the open throughout the year, without being given additional food. Only in times of frost and snow are they given hay at certain feeding grounds. There are no stables for these animals, and in the winter they find shelter and protection in the woods. Once a year, the "Wildpferdefang" attracts many tourists. Since 1907 it has become a tradition that on the last Sunday in May the yearling colts are rounded up, penned, and auctioned off.

Temperament and Talent

The Dülmen is an undemanding, enduring, and intelligent horse that lives to a very old age. As a pleasure horse it is a favourite for children and teenagers, but it also looks charming when hitched to a coach.

Exmoor Pony

Origin

Exmoor/SW England

Colours

bay, dark brown, dark dun

Exterior

11.1 to 12.0 hands; medium long, strong back; often rather cupped croup; high withers; well



placed shoulder; short neck; clear legs; fine, hard hooves; dry head; broad forehead; prominent toad's eyes with light-coloured edge; thick and pointed ears; mealy muzzle (light-coloured coat around the nostrils)

Use

saddle pony for children; hunting pony

History and Origins

As can be guessed by the name, this pony is native to the moorlands of Exmoor. Some experts presume that this pony breed is a descendant of wild ponies that came to Great Britain even before the country was cut off from the continent. However, this horse, having survived centuries, hardly managed to live through World War II. Because meat was so scarce, it was hunted down by poachers. A mere 50 horses survived the massacre. Today, this historical breed counts approximately 800 specimens. Of these, only 200 animals in several herds live out in the extensive freedom offered by a nature reserve. The Exmoor Pony Society has made it their duty to carefully supervise that they are only purebred. Once a year, the animals are rounded up and the half-year olds

are examined by two expert judges. If the parents are already registered in the studbook and the yearling manages to please the demanding jury, it will be given a branding, registered in the studbook, and released again into the wild. However, every foal has a second chance, because each yearling is again examined six months later and maybe this time will be allowed to roam the moors freely. If it is less lucky, it is sold.

Temperament and Talent

While in olden days, the Exmoor pony was used by farmers as a draught and pack pony, today it is the preferred mount for adults who go hunting in the moors, where it easily keeps up with the large horses. It is an enduring, friendly, and very fast companion for children, and loves to jump. Only few Exmoor ponies are registered in other European countries, for example, in Germany, the first were registered in 1990.

Falabella

Origin

Argentina

Colours

all colours



Exterior

no more than 34 inches

Use

coach horse, zoo, circus

History and Origins

The Falabella, standing to no more than 34 inches, is the smallest equine in the world. It only came to existence about 100 years ago, by sheer chance, on the Argentine ranch Recreo de

Roca owned by the Falabella family, and yet, very little is known about the history of this miniature horse. The owner's grandfather, an Irish emigrant named Newton, is said to have found a thoroughbred horse of dwarf stature on his land close to Buenos Aires. He kept the animal, which might have been left behind by Native Americans, for his daughter and continued breeding with small mares of var-

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ious breeds. The gene for stunted growth was transmitted; the foals remained smaller than the broodmares. In the course of time, the smallest Shetland ponies were admixed again and again. Falabellas don't look like ponies; they look like horses in miniature size. But since it has not only been reduced in size, but also in strength, the Falabella is not suited for riding. In North America, the Falabella is predominantly kept as a pet and for pulling carts. An astonishing fact is that gestation of these "toy horses" takes

two months longer than with "normal" horses. What's more, they lack two sets of ribs and two vertebrae. But however small these minis are, they're grand when it comes to fetching a good price.

Fell Pony

Origin

Great Britain

Colours

black with star markings and a little white around the hind fetlock; dark brown, bay, and grey



Exterior

standing up to 14.0 hands; powerful back with very muscular loins; good, oblique shoulder well laid back; rounded croup; well proportioned, medium long neck; very short cannons; fine, square head; broad forehead

Use

saddle and harness pony; therapeutic pony

History and Origins

Just like its relative, the Dales pony, the Fell pony, which originates in the regions of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and North Lancashire, was used for agricultural work and for transporting lead from the mines in the mountains down to the coast.

However, it is presumed that in lineage the Fell pony goes back to the Celtic pony.

In 1898 a studbook register was established, and since the formation of the Fell Pony Society, the studbook has been closed to outside blood.

This powerful and wiry small horse has a very lively temperament, good, ground-covering action, and an excellent jumping

ability. The Fell pony has great stamina and is very comfortable to ride. It is not only used as a saddle and harness pony, but is also employed by the Riding for the Disabled movement.

Fjord Pony

Origin

Norway

Colours

dun in all shades from brown dun to red dun, grey, pale, gold, or yellow dun; markings typical for feral species; dorsal stripe; no white marking permissible

Exterior

13.2 to 14.2 hands; generous bones, rectangular shape; large shoulder; good girth; elastic back with a strong coupling; well set on neck becoming slimmer towards the head; ample room at the angle of the jaw; broad forehead; straight to slightly dished nasal peak; expressive, large eyes; small ears set wide apart; pronounced, strong joints; hard hooves

Use

saddle, coach, and family pony; sporting and endurance pony; harness driving



History and Origins

The Fjord pony's mane has always been trimmed. The pony of today is not much different from the olden days, when the Vikings bred it for mounted tournaments and battles, and brought it along with them to Iceland. The Fjord pony is one of the oldest equine breeds in Europe and one of the few who have remained true to type, maintaining their characteristic traits over the course of centuries. It has always kept the colour typical for wild horses, a yellowish to grey-dun coat with a black dorsal stripe, as well as dark

stripes on the legs. This is why many experts presume the Fjord pony to be a close relative of the Przewalski Horse. Until about 1850, the Fjord only stood to a height of 12.1 hands at the withers, and it was not strong enough to keep working as a draught horse in agriculture when farm work was increasingly intensified. Experiments were made by intercrossing the Döle, a light cold-blood breed from East Norway, hoping to heighten the size of the Fjord. But the "results" were not satisfactory, so it was decided in 1871 to close the breed to foreign

stallions. In 1864, a studbook was established. Every stallion's lineage today goes back to one very prepotent progenitor, the main stud "Njal 166", which meant that the breed soon had a standardised type appearance.

Temperament and Talent

Fjord ponies, just like Icelandic ponies, love to live out in the open, facing wind and storm. In the winter, they grow a very thick coat which means that they can endure any temperature and won't mind staying on the paddock even in frosty climates. All they require is an open shed to find shelter in that is dry and not too draughty; good food and fresh water should always be at hand. But too much food can be dangerous for these hardy animals, because they are hopelessly greedy and tend to get fat; they also easily catch Laminitis. Like all ponies, the Fjord takes rather long to mature and is only fully grown at the age of six. However, once it is mature, it's like a life insurance for its horseman. It is patient and gentle and will forgive many faults committed by a novice rider. The Fjord is a loyal companion for children. Therapists also like to employ this good-natured Norwegian with its

loveable character when working with ill or disabled people. Pleasure riders will go into raptures about a Fjord pony's stamina and sure-footed action, and the jumping ability of this robust breed is also something worth seeing.

Haflinger

Origin

South Tyrol

Colours

chestnut; light-coloured mane; markings on the head allowed but discouraged on the legs, no frosted coat



Exterior

13.2 to 14.2 hands; old type: strong with the proportions of a cold-blood; new type: dry, correct foundation; hard, not too flat hooves; rectangular shape; well-defined withers; long, oval rib



cage; long, broad, and slightly sloping croup with good musculature; sufficiently long neck; light in the nape; short, dry head; broad forehead; slightly dished profile; ample room at the angle of the jaw; large, clear eyes

Use

saddle and harness pony for children and adults; also coach and carriage pony

History and Origins

Nobody knows for certain when the "small blonde" developed which originates in the mountain plateau area of Salten-Mölden in the Etschtal. But in the times of the Romans there were already packhorses in South Tyrol, and today's Haflinger probably

descended from these. It is supposed that the foundation stock was crossed with cold-bloods from Northern Europe and with Oriental stallions from the South. The only proven fact is that these horses already existed in 1282. But they were only named "Haflinger" at the turn of the century, after the village of Hafling, near Meran. The foundation stallion of the modern Haflinger breedstock was the light dun coloured halfbred stallion "Folie". His father was the Arab stallion "El Bedavi XXII", who came from the royal and imperial Austrian stud farm at Radautz, and his mother was a mare belonging to a Tryolese farmer called Folie, who lived in the Vintschgau area. When in 1919 South Tyrol was

given to Italy, the Austrian state stud at Piber and the state foaling farm at Ossiach in Carinthia began their own breeding. Today HM the Queen breeds Haflinger, and Prince Philip can be seen at harness competitions driving a team of Haflinger ponies. Haflingers are even used in the mountainous areas of Asia, where they are crossed to indigenous mares in order to improve the local stock. Since these powerful equines even cope in heights of 13,120 feet, a breeding program has been developed in Bhutan in the Himalayas, where Haflingers are mated to Tibetan ponies. But you can also see these animals in the USA, in Australia, and South Africa, carrying luggage for wanderers and hunting expeditions.

Temperament and Talent

Because one of this breed's most excellent qualities is its sure-footed movement on uneven terrain, coupled with an eagerness to work, ambition, and an undemanding disposition. By crossing the Haflinger yet again with Arab Thoroughbred stallions, the Arabo-Haflinger was created, and the former workhorse has become an ideal saddle horse for children. The Haflinger can be kept out on the paddock.

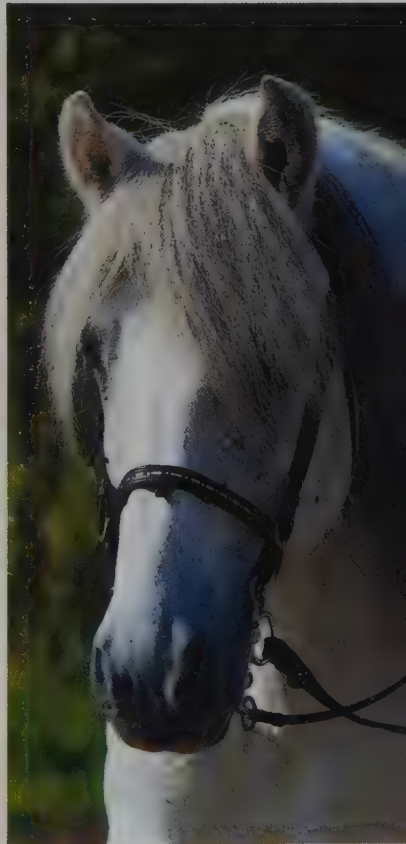
Highland Pony

Origin

Scotland

Colours

all shades of dun, often with a dorsal stripe; grey; rarely bay and black; chestnut very seldom; only small white markings allowed on the head; no piebald or skewbald



Small Horses and Ponies

Exterior

13.0 to 14.2 hands; powerful back; long, oblique shoulder; short, round croup; exceedingly large, round, hard, and dark hooves; short cannons; large, flat joints; moderate feathers; dense and silky mane; dense and silky tail; fine, elegant pony-like head; small ponylike ears; large, open eyes; arched neck, not too short

nates in the rugged Scottish Highlands is one of Europe's oldest pony breeds. Its history is intertwined with that of the Vikings, who were already breeding horses in 800 BC, and from the 5th century BC on, they were taking their horses with them when sailing to England. But the origins of the Highland pony go back in time even further. After analysing the hair of some High-



Use

exceedingly versatile pony breed with comfortable gaits for riding

History and Origins

This sure-footed horse that can live to a very old age and origi-

land ponies, experts have come to the conclusion that this breed must be the direct descendant of the primitive Ice Age pony. In the course of centuries of selective breeding, man and the rugged and harsh landscape of Scotland

have achieved in forming a very special horse. After all, the Highland pony is held to be not only the tallest, but also the most powerful and versatile of all British mountain and moorland pony breeds. These undemanding and hardy horses can face any weather and have always been employed as riding horses, as well as for hauling the turf sleighs in the homelands and ploughing the fields. Whenever it came to hunting in the Highlands, these ponies were acclaimed helpers, because they are strong enough to carry even two or three stags, bearing them on their back and bringing them down into the valleys. In 1889, a studbook register was established, thus opening a new chapter in the history of this breed.

Temperament and Talent

The "modern" Highland ponies are very popular pleasure horses, which are not only good at canter, but also show a great ability for jumping. The Highland Pony Society, under the patronage of HM the Queen, is monitoring the fate of this easily trained horse to ensure that it will not turn into a "mass product". Although it has many advantages, the Highland pony is not suited for every rider.

Because of its intelligence, good training ability, and close bond to humans, it needs a partner who will know how to cope with its independent and demanding ways. But once you have managed to win the affection of a Highland pony, it is a horse fit for all seasons, one that you can even seek cover under when it rains.

Huzul

Origin

Carpathian Mountains/Poland



Small Horses and Ponies

Colours

mostly dun and dark dun

Exterior

12.1 to 13.2 hands; nicely built back; good musculature; wide chest; neck well set on; long, broad head; strong hindquarter; short, sturdy legs; small hooves

Use

workhorse; saddle pony

History and Origins

The Huzul has existed as a small horse type for hundreds of years. Experts presume that this horse, originating in the Huzulia set in the Carpathian Mountains, is in fact a descendant of the Tarpan. For example, it has the long, broad head typical for the primitive wild horse. It is very probable that in the 19th century the Huzul was admixed with Arab blood. In the former royal and imperial stud of Radautz in Austria, the Huzul was bred because it was sure-footed and robust, as well as exceedingly undemanding and with great stamina and it was accordingly used as a packhorse for the mountain infantry.

Temperament and Talent

Even today, farmers in the Carpathian Mountains use the

Huzul as a willing pack and workhorse, skirting the narrow paths and transporting wood. The larger specimens are also used for riding. These gentle small horses with their relaxed temperament are especially well suited for children's saddle ponies.

Icelandic

Origin

Iceland

Colours

all colours, all markings; no leopard pattern

Exterior

12.1 to 14.1 hands; harmonious conformation; dry, strong joints; hooves matching the size and





type of the specific pony; very typical head, conform to the size of the pony; alert, expressive eyes; correct and healthy jaws; head long enough and well set on; natural straight posture

Use

saddle and family horse

History and Origins

The horses of the Norse gods were nearly as important for the people of Iceland as the gods themselves. The god of the night rode across the sky on his mount "Hrimfaxi", and the drops that

fell off the horse's jaws turned into white frost when they touched the ground. And daylight only came because the god of the day floated across the sky with his horse "Skinfaxi", which had a bright, shiny mane. Towards the year 900, Norwegian Vikings refused to submit to a ruling tyrant and settled in Iceland. They boarded their boats, taking with them not only livestock such as cattle and sheep, but also their Celtic ponies. In later years, when they went conquering, they brought some more ponies of Celtic origin with

Small Horses and Ponies

them as spoils of war. In the year 1000 ca., the Icelandic council decided not to allow foreign horses onto the island, in order to prevent the distribution of epidemics. What followed was pure breeding for almost 1000 years. The rough living conditions helped to develop one of the most robust equine breeds ever. For centuries, these powerful and undemanding creatures were indispensable pack and riding animals, transporting men and goods over the barren volcanic island in the North Atlantic, where until few years ago there were hardly any roads suitable for traffic. What's more, Icelandic ponies have an exceedingly well developed homing instinct, finding their way home all on their own, even when very long dis-

tances away. Today, a purebred Icelandic pony is one whose pedigree both on the mother's and father's side can be traced back to Iceland.

Rack and Pace

Apart from the habitual gaits Icelandic ponies also possess the ability to rack, which is an ambling gait, and some are even five-gaited, also performing the pace. While the rack is transmitted in the genes, the ability to pace is something an Icelandic pony does not possess automatically. As opposed to trotting horses, Icelandic ponies can even carry sedan chairs. When performing the pace, the two legs on one side move simultaneously. Normally the pace is only seen in a fast, racing speed, and then it looks as if



the horse were flying. Icelandic ponies can pace at a speed that comes close to a fast gallop. The rack, also called tölt, is a smooth four-beat gait without any suspension. Carrying itself proudly, the horse moves in a way that is nearly completely free of jarring, which makes riding very comfortable and enables people to cover long distances without feeling exhausted.

Temperament and Talent

Icelandic ponies mature fairly late. They should only be trained when they are five years old, but then they will even carry adults with ease. Icelandic adapt very easily, are enduring, lively, and self-assured, and at the same time they are good-natured, patient, and very nice to children.

Konik

Origin

Poland

Colours

brown dun; grey with dorsal stripe; grey

Exterior

approximately 13.0 hands; long rump; steep croup; tail set low; dry limbs with dry tendons and



strong joints; small, hard hooves; medium long neck; dished head; short muzzle; small ears

Use

workhorse; pleasure horse

History and Origins

This tough and undemanding farm pony is a descendant of the Tarpan, which once could be found all over Eastern Europe. Several zoos have made attempts to breed the Konik back to the original wild state of the Tarpan. The Konik (meaning "small horse") in many ways reminds one of a wild horse, and it is exceptionally robust, good-natured, long-living, and very fer-



tile. The Konik has made an impact on nearly every other Polish or Russian horse breed.

To the farmers living in the flatlands, the Konik was an equally important helper as the Huzul, which is closely related to the Konik, was to the mountain farmers. The Konik shows free action in all three gaits and is well suited for a saddle horse for children. In Poland, this original horse is strictly purebred and lives in herds, roaming the open countryside.

Mérens Pony

Origin

France

Colours

black

Exterior

approximately 13.1 hands; compact horse; proud posture; elegant appearance; stable head; dense mane and tail

Use

farmers' pony; pleasure horse

History and Origins

The Mérens pony is a very undemanding mountain pony living in semi-feral herds. It belongs to the oldest European pony breeds. This horse only appears in the colour black, and it originates in the Ariège Valley in the Pyrenees, located between Spain and France. In former days, these small horses were used primarily as military and workhorses, but because they are very sure-footed, they were also very popular with smugglers, carrying their goods across the border.

Temperament and Talent

Today, Mérens ponies are predominantly employed by mountain farmers for agricultural work, but they are not only workhorses but also very agreeable pleasure horses.

New Forest Pony

Origin

New Forest/Great Britain

Colours

all solid colours; no piebald, skewbald, leopard pattern, albino





Exterior

13.2 to 14.2 hands; well-defined withers; long, oblique shoulder; strong back; well-muscled croup; good depth of girth; oval rib cage; slightly arched, well set on neck; ample room at the angle of the jaw; elegant, medium large, expressive head; broad forehead; nasal peak straight or dished; no Roman nose; eyes large and clear, giving an impression of being trusting, calm, and intelligent; medium large ears; clearly developed joints; strong and correct, hard, round hooves; hindquarters

set at a good angle and well-muscled

Use

for all disciplines in pleasure and equestrian sporting events, for children and adults

History and Origins

These "courageous little beasts" were said to already have roamed the area between Southampton and Dartmoor, stretching right up to the Exmoor, in the times of the legendary King Arthur. In those days, the ponies were much

smaller than today, and probably a little bit wilder. The small horses were left to themselves. The New Forest was a royal hunting ground which the farmers of the region had nothing to do with. But they did have a claim to royal compensation if the animals fed on their crop. A decree from the year 1224 exists which demands that the weaker animals should be killed during the rounding up of the herds, which took place once a year. King Henry VIII even proclaimed a law in 1540, ordaining that every horse standing to less than 14 hands should be put to death, but fortunately, this law was never seriously put into effect. Only with increasing civilisation, which meant that the habitat of the horses was reduced, and with the beginning of systematic breeding in the 19th century, did changes take place in the lifestyle of the horses. For example, in 1852 and 1890, Arab stallions from the stud of HM Queen Victoria were let loose in the New Forest in order to upgrade the breed. In 1891, the Society for the Improvement of New Forest Ponies was founded. English Thoroughbred and indigenous stallions were further inter-crossed with the New Forest Ponies. Since the mid 1930s, no

more outside blood has been permitted to this recognised breed of British mountain and moorland ponies.

Temperament and Talent

The patient, relaxed, dependable, and good-natured animals have also found followers in Europe, Canada, and Australia.

They have a winning, friendly character and a very agreeable temperament, are willing to work, and very comfortable to ride. With their ground-covering action, they are equally suited for novices and for sporting horsemen. New Forest Ponies have a good ability for dressage and jumping, and are also persevering enough to succeed in endurance riding and endurance harness. Although their average size is 13.2 to 14.2 hands, a rider should not weigh more than 12 stone (75 kg). These undemanding ponies are happiest out on the pasture, roaming the ground and free as the wind, but in the cold season they quickly get used to the "luxury lifestyle" in the stable. Ponies that are kept nearly only out in the open don't need to be shod, but a blacksmith should come five times a year to give them a "hoof manicure".

Pony of the Americas

Origin

Iowa/USA

Colours

appaloosa coat

Exterior

11.1 to 13.1 hands; short, muscular body; long croup; slightly arched neck; oblique shoulder; elegant head; large eyes; sharp ears

Use

saddle horse for children and adults

History and Origins

The Pony of the Americas, simply referred to as POA, looks like an Appaloosa in miniature format. It also has the same coat markings as its forbear. At the beginning of the 1950s, Leslie Broomhower from Mason City, Iowa, crossed a Shetland Pony stallion to an Appaloosa mare. The offspring had the same strikingly patterned coat as the mother and turned out to be very fertile.

Temperament and Talent

The POA has a fiery temperament, is easy to train, and very good-natured, as well as being



enduring and robust. In the USA, it is a popular saddle horse for children and adults and can also be frequently seen at horse shows.

Pottok

Origin

France

Colours

many colours; also piebald and skewbald

Use

children's saddle pony

History and Origins

The Pottok horse is native to the mountainous regions of the Pyrenees and to the Basque country in the south-west of France, living in free herds. And yet, they are exceedingly friendly animals. The appearance of this equine, whose name is of Basque origin and means, roughly, "little horsey", has slight similarities to the Shet-



Exterior

11.1 to 13.0 hands; medium heavy pony; long back; short neck; powerful, clear legs; sometimes slightly dished head; small, vivacious eyes; short ears; thick mane

land pony. And like their northern counterparts, at the beginning of the 20th century they were employed in the mines, because they were small, enduring, and hardy. Once a year, the foals are rounded up and evaluated. They

are either branded and set free again, or sold on the horse market.

Temperament and Talent

Today, approximately 3000 pure-bred Pottok ponies are registered in a studbook. What's more, by admixing Arabs and Welsh ponies, enduring and sure-footed trail riding ponies are also being bred.

Shetland Pony

Origin

Shetland Islands

Colours

all colours; piebald, skewbald, and leopard pattern permitted

Exterior

8.2 to 10.2 hands; "miniature Shetlands" under 8.2 hands; rectangular shape; sufficiently wide chest; thick tail; voluminous neck; thick mane; small, elegant head; large, friendly eyes; no wall eye; small ears

Use

small saddle and harness pony; especially suited for small novice children

History and Origins

Most people think "Shetty" when they think of ponies. Their character and size make them ideal equines for novices, i. e., children who are only just beginning to





learn horseback riding. They are friendly and yet fiery, and are not only wonderful to ride, but also ideal to learn the proper treatment of a horse.

And when hitched to a coach, they are strong enough to even pull an adult. The Shetland Pony can draw a weight twice its own, which means that, in proportion to its size, it is the strongest of all equine breeds. Unfortunately, these robust small-scale horses are only too often treated as "toys".

Nobody really knows how this small breed of equines evolved. Some experts presume that Celtic peoples living in Scotland must have brought the first specimens with them when leaving the mainland and crossing over to the Shetland Islands. Others believe that during the Ice Age

they might have wandered from the Tundra southwards, over the frozen North Sea, thus reaching the British Isles before the ice melted. The earliest finds on the Shetland Islands go back to around 500 BC. This breed has remained comparatively unchanged.

Only about 1000 years ago did settlers from Norway bring along the Lofoten pony, long since extinct, an ancestor of the Döle pony, which was crossed with the Shetland ponies. But since the founding of the studbook in 1890, no introduction of outside blood has been permitted.

In the 19th century, the extraordinarily strong animals were employed in the British coal mining industry, hauling coal carts in the pits because they were small, powerful, hardy, and good-natured. Many Shetlands were exported to the USA to work in coal mines there, too.

An American draught type was bred there with longer legs, which is very popular for harness races, hitched to a sulky. Other breeders are occupied with creating a particularly small, miniature Shetland type.

Welsh Mountain Pony

Origin

Wales/Great Britain

Colours

all colours, no piebald or skewbald



Exterior

height not exceeding 12.0 hands; very muscular, clearly concave back; croup the form of a melon with well set, nicely carried tail and good thighs; wide chest; long, oblique shoulder; good depth of girth; nicely rounded rib cage; proud posture; neck suffi-

ciently long and well set on; small, dry head; slightly dished nasal peak; broad forehead; ample room at the angle of the jaw; large, vivid eyes; small, sharp ears set relatively high; wide nostrils; short, oval canons; well defined joints; medium long pasterns

Use

ideal riding pony for children; excellent harness pony

History and Origins

This vivacious pony, which originates from the Celtic pony, has been living in the mountains of Wales for over 1000 years. The pretty Arab head and the elegant, noble appearance of the Welsh Mountain Pony are due to some Arab stallions that were set free here approximately 200 years ago. Even in later times, foreign blood like that of Andalusian horses was admixed. These intelligent and courageous horses still live in large herds; roaming the mountains, moors, and wastes of Wales.

Temperament and Talent

Many horse lovers hold the Welsh Mountain Pony to be the noblest and most beautiful of all British pony breeds. They possess a strik-

ing, free action, are very enduring, and have an easy disposition. They are very popular riding horses for children, not only in the UK, but also on the continent and in the USA.

However, even though they should not stand to more than 12 hands, they are anything but live toys. In order to properly control these vivacious equines, a thorough training is indispensable even for the junior horsemen.

Welsh Pony

Origin

Wales/Great Britain

Colours

all colours, no piebald or skewbald

Exterior

up to 13.2 hands; very muscular, medium long, slightly concave back; long croup the form of a melon with well set, nicely carried tail and good thighs; wide chest; long, oblique, and well placed shoulder; good depth of girth and nicely rounded rib cage; withers not too high; neck sufficiently long and well set on; elegant, dry, not too long head; broad forehead; large, vivid eyes;



finely chiselled, well set ears; short, oval cannons; well-defined joints; medium long pasterns

Use

multi-purpose riding and eventing pony for children; harness pony

History and Origins

The Welsh Pony is similar to the Welsh Mountain Pony, but slightly taller. It also has a very elegant, noble appearance with clearly Oriental traits. Its history goes back to a small Thoroughbred stallion called "Merlin", who was a direct offspring of the legendary "Darley Arabian", one of the three foundation stallions of the English Thoroughbred.

This is why the Welsh Ponies, with a smoother action and lighter build than the smaller Welsh Mountain Pony, are often called "Merlins".

Small Horses and Ponies

Temperament and Talent

They are excellent riding and jumping ponies for children and display remarkable staying power, good action, and sound constitution.

Welsh Pony of Cob Type

Origin

Wales/Great Britain

Colours

all colours, no piebald or skewbald

Exterior

up to 13.2 hands; very muscular, clearly concave back; croup the form of a melon with well set, nicely carried tail and good thighs; long, oblique shoulder; wide chest; good depth of girth and nicely rounded rib cage; proud posture; neck sufficiently long and well set on; elegant, expressive head of pony type;

dished nose is discouraged; broad forehead; large, vivid eyes; fine, well set on ears; oval cannons; well-defined joints; medium long pasterns

Use

versatile pony; suitable for adults and children; harness pony

History and Origins

The Welsh Pony of Cob Type (section C) was developed by crossing Welsh Mountain Ponies with Welsh Cobs; it originates in the area of the Brecon Beacons and Radnorshire. It is slightly taller and stockier than the Welsh Mountain Pony, and, through the influence of the Cob, does not have quite such an elegant head. With their stocky and large build, this sound and enduring breed is also a suitable riding pony for adults.

Temperament and Talent

In former days, it was predominantly used as a harness horse, and was nearly forgotten in the age of mechanisation. However, in the past few years, this eager and friendly small horse has become an especially popular and indispensable comrade for tourists who like to go trekking and trail riding when on holiday in Wales.



Welsh Cob

Origin

Wales/Great Britain

Colours

all colours, no piebald or skewbald

Exterior

from 13.2 hands; very muscular, clearly concave back; croup the form of a melon with well set, nicely carried tail and good thighs; long, oblique shoulder; wide chest; good depth of girth and nicely rounded rib cage; proud posture; sufficiently long and well set on neck; elegant, expressive head of pony type; dished nose is discouraged; broad forehead; large, vivid eyes; fine, well set on ears; wide nostrils; short, oval canons; well-defined joints; medium long pasterns

Use

family pleasure horse, mostly used by adults and in harness

History and Origins

The Welsh simply call their fiery and energetic Welsh Cob “the best riding and draught horse in all of Europe”. Even though this might be slightly exaggerated,

the medium large, vivacious warm-bloods are especially suited for riding, jumping, and hunting, and they have been bred in Wales for more than 800 years. Even in the Middle Ages, they carried their knights across the country, pulled extremely heavy carts, and were loyal hunting companions who enjoyed jumping.



Temperament and Talent

Originating in the area of Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire, the Welsh Cob is a very undemanding and calm horse that even exceeds the size limits by which small horses are distinguished from large horses. It will easily carry even heavier horsemen. The Welsh Cob has ground-covering action and is sure-footed and very reliable. It is a breed especially suited for senior horsemen.

Sporting Horses

Akhal-Teke

Origin

Turkmenistan/Central Asia

Colours

all solid colours, no piebald or skewbald

Exterior

15.0 to 16.1 hands; noble horse with long limbs; long, dry head, often thin; silky, fine coat with a shade of gold; thin mane and tail; delicate skin; tends to a ewe-neck

Use

versatile pleasure and sporting horse; because of its silky coat, the Akhal-Teke is not really suitable for outdoor keeping

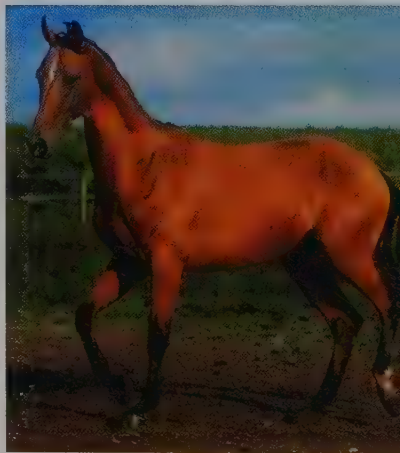
History an Origins

More than 4000 years ago, the largest herds of horses lived in the vast steppes north of the Caucasus. Supposedly, this is where Nomads detected their love for horse breeding and riding.

In the course of the centuries, the most diverse breeds developed, among them the Mongolian pony, the Kazakh horse, the Kabardin, and the Akhal-Teke.

Excavations have proven that in the 2nd century BC a type of horse was bred in Turkmenistan that very much resembles today's Akhal-Teke. In antiquity, the "Nisean horse" was prized for its stamina and hardiness, and also for its beauty. "Bukephalos", the favourite horse of Alexander the Great, is also said to have carried Turkmen blood.

And it is presumed that "Byerley Turk", one of the foundation stallions of the English Thoroughbred, was also an Akhal-Teke.



The name derives from the Teke, a nomadic people in Turkmenistan. Although the steppes and deserts of Turkmenistan were scorching hot in the summer and freezing cold in the winter, the

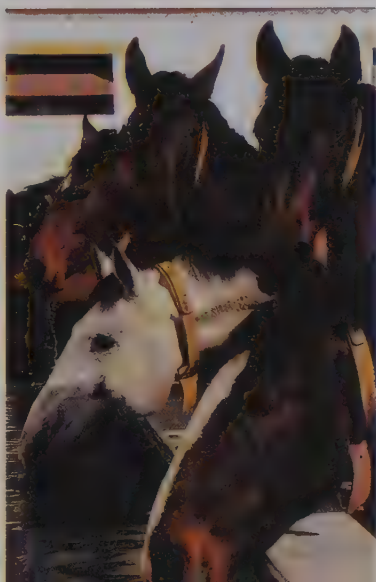
Nomads kept their “golden horses” blanketed throughout the year. Even today, an Akhal-Teke in its homeland might be seen decorated with seven traditional blankets, each one of which has a special name. Of course these noble horses cope perfectly without such a protective cover. Similar to the Arab horse, the Akhal-Teke would live in his master’s tent, always being by his side. Accordingly, this sensitive and proud animal will only turn into a “dream horse” if you manage to win its trust and friendship. Those people who only feel like “giving it a try” will see a rather different side: the Akhal-Teke can be stubborn and resentful. A trait of character that was vital for surviving in the wilderness, where the principle rule was either to persevere or to perish. Quite justly, these lithe animals are called the “greyhounds” among horses. They are lean, wiry, enduring, and very fast. The Akhal-Teke breed gained international popularity on occasion of the longest endurance ride held in the former USSR, which with a distance of 2670 miles (4300 km) leads from Ashkhabad to Moscow. Akhal-Teke horses covered this distance in 84 days, and they only needed

three days to cross the 215 miles (360 km) of the Kara Kum desert, which holds no water. “Arab” was one of the most famous endurance horses and also a champion at jumping competitions, and his son “Absent” even won a gold medal at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, and a bronze medal at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, both in dressage. In Germany, there are only approximately 200 Akhal-Teke horses, with 20 foals being born every year. Small stud farms can also be found in Austria, Italy, Belgium, and the USA.

Altér Real

Origin

Portugal



Colours

predominantly black and brown; some grey

Exterior

14.3 to 15.2 hands; powerful, compact body; wide, deep chest; very muscular, strong croup; well-defined withers; short, nicely arched neck; small, square head; dry, clear legs

Use

excellent saddle horse, very talented for the High School

History and Origins

This elegant and fiery horse can be traced back to 40 noble Andalusian mares that were bought in 1748 for the newly formed stud farm "Alter do Chao", destined to breed horses for the royalty in Lisbon. In the royal riding school, the same training program was applied which the High School of Vienna was known for. But due to wrong choices in the 19th century, when the breed was crossed with Arabs, Thoroughbreds, Normans, and Hanoverians, the stud farm and this prized breed were brought to the verge of destruction.

Mares belonging to Napoleon's army, which had been taken as

spoils of war after the Battle of Arapiles in 1812, were responsible for a reduction of body size and temperament.

Things only got better for the Altér Real after improvement with the blood of Spanish horses belonging to the Zapata family's stud farm, which since 1835 had been breeding Andalusians in Arcos. At the beginning of the 1930s, the ministry of economy decreed that breeding should only be allowed with the 12 best mares, thus ensuring that in the course of time the breed would one day regain its former standard.

Temperament and Talent

The Altér Real resembles the Andalusian, but it has a smaller body. They both have a very high knee action and are especially suited for dressage. The temperament and nervous disposition of the Altér Real require an experienced horseman.

American Saddlebred

Origin

USA

Colours

solid colours; some markings



Exterior

15.0 to 16.1 hands; straight, long back; even croup; well set on tail held high; deep, ample chest; long, arched neck held high; long, slim legs with good bones and joints; nicely shaped head; large eyes and nostrils

Use

show and pleasure horse

History and Origins

In its homeland USA, this horse is also known as "Saddler", "Virginia Saddler", or "Kentucky Saddle Horse". The ranchers of Kentucky wanted to create an enduring, light, and, above all, attrac-

tive horse, so they crossed English, American, and Canadian pacers and later admixed them with Morgans, Narragansett Pacers, and Thoroughbreds.

These highly sensitive horses, held by many to be "the most beautiful horses in the world", are intelligent, with a close bond to humans, fiery, courageous, yet undemanding, and a huge attraction at horse shows and parades because of their breathtaking action.

There are three types of American Saddle: the harness horse (called "Fine Harness"), the three-, and

the five-gaited horse. The five-gaited American Saddlebred Horse possesses the usual gaits walk, trot, and canter (a slow gallop); plus the slow rack, a broken pace, or a slow, elegant version of the rack; and the fast rack, a very fast, rhythmical four-beat gait.

In the rack, each foot is lifted singly, held in the air, and then put down again. At equestrian events, the two types (three- and five-gaited) can easily be distinguished from one another: the three-gaited American Saddlebred Horse has a roached mane and thinned tail, while the five-gaited Saddler has a long mane and a long tail carried high. This striking carriage of the tail is usually only achieved through "cosmetic surgery", by cutting muscles of the dock and making it wear a crupper for several months. The expressive gaits are trained with the help of special shoes and weights. While in the United States this is judged as "chic" and brings in large amounts of money at horse shows, in Europe it is seen as cruelty to animals. On our continent, this loveably horse breed became known through children's television: "Fury", "Flicka", and "Black Beauty" were all American Saddlebred Horses.

Andalusian

Origin

Andalusia/Spain

Colours

predominantly grey, also bay, palomino, and black

Exterior

mares 15.0 to 15.2 hands; stallions 15.0 to 16.1 hands; well-defined withers; strong body with rounded rib cage; wide, muscular chest; oblique, muscular shoulder; slightly sloping croup with



tail set low; clear tendons; dry fetlock joints; slightly arched, medium long, well set on neck; thick, silky mane; fine, dry head with a straight or slightly convex profile; medium large ears; large, lively eyes

Use

dressage, especially suited for the High School; in Spain: bullfights; circus and parade horse; harness

History and Origins

The Andalusian is the pride of Spanish horse breeders, and in its homeland it is referred to as "Pura Raza Española", or Spanish purebred. These proud animals go back to the old Iberian horses from Antiquity. But the real birthplace of the Andalusian lies in three Carthusian monasteries in Spain.

In the 15th century, the monks took the idea of a purebred so seriously, that they threatened to excommunicate whoever dared turn down the national horse type. It is thanks to the monks of Jerez that a few purebred Andalusians survived the reign of Philip III, who ordered the admixture of northern blood. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Andalusian became the patriarch of nearly



every European saddle horse breed.

Mare and sires from the royal studs in Cordoba, Sevilla, and Jerez influenced the development of the English Thoroughbred as well as that of the Neapolitan, Kladruber, Frederiksborg, and the Lipizzaner. When Cortez invaded large parts of America, he had Spanish horses with him. They became the forbears of the Appaloosa, the Pinto, the Quarter Horse, and many other breeds.

Today, purebred Andalusians are predominantly bred in the surroundings of Jerez de la Frontera, where in 1973 the Royal Andalusian Riding Academy was founded.

Temperament and Talent

The highly sensitive animals are exceedingly agreeable and at the same time fiery saddle horses with great staying power and an undemanding and gentle character.

Anglo-Arab

Origin

France

Colours

all solid colours; no piebald or skewbald permissible

Exterior

mares from 15.2 hands, stallions at least 15.3 hands; noble; good conformation; elegant, spirited, elastic action

Use

multi-purpose saddle horse

History and Origin

This noble breed was developed through crossing English Thoroughbred with Arab Thoroughbred. The dam may descend from one of the two breeds as long as 25% of her blood remains Arab.

Anglo-Arab horses have been bred in the South of France for over 100 years. Famous representatives of the breed are "Nana Sahib" (b. 1900), a stallion used for the Trakehner breed, and "Inschallah" (b. 1968), a stallion employed in Oldenburg.

Anglo-Arabs are also bred in Hungary, where they are known as



Gidran, and in Poland (called Malopolska there), from where the famous stallion "Ramses" (b. 1937) originated.

Temperament and Talent

The Anglo-Arab horse merges the positive aspects of both Thoroughbred breeds: it is a powerful sporting and race horse with an excellent canter and a great talent for jumping.

This elegant and versatile breed has everything an ideal saddle horse needs.

Because of its fiery and vivacious temperament, a rider of some experience is suited best.

Appaloosa

Origin

USA

Colours

spotted coat in a variety of patterns: blanket (white on loins and hips), snowflake (dark coat with white spots), leopard or polka dot (white coat with dark spots), mottled

Exterior

14.0 to 16.1 hands; seemingly square body; long, oblique shoul-

der; ample chest; not too high withers reaching far into the back; short back; long croup; dry, correct, not too long legs; well-defined, not-too-small joints; short cannons; very muscular hindquarter; hard hooves; neck long enough and light at the nape; short, wedge-shaped head; broad forehead; large, friendly eyes; small and very finely chiselled ears



Use

predominantly Western riding, also used in dressage, jumping, trekking, and endurance riding as well as in races

History and Origins

"Apalouse" is what white traders called the strikingly spotted horse of the Nez Percé Indians, when in 1870 they came to the area through which the river Palouse runs. It is presumed that the Native Americans had created this breed in the Northeast of the USA, in the area where today the states' borders of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon meet, from Spanish horses, forming a horse through careful breeding and intensive training that became famous for its stamina, courage, loyalty, intelligence, and speed. When the Native Americans had to surrender to the American army in 1877, this nearly meant an end for the glorious history of the Appaloosa. The army seized all of the horses and auctioned them to traders. Fortunately, some ranchers were so delighted with this breed that they took it upon themselves to continue breeding the Appaloosa, in spite of many difficulties. Finally, in 1938 an Appaloosa studbook was established.

Temperament and Talent

There is hardly a horse as versatile as the Appaloosa. Apart from the Quarter Horse, it is the most popular workhorse in the USA. In Great Britain, the Appaloosa is referred to as Spotted Horse and has been known here for many years. It is a calm and easy to ride horse and even though it has temperament, it never gets fidgety, which is why more and more Europeans appreciate it. Because of its stamina and hardiness, it is ideal for endurance riding and trekking, but is also popular for racing, jumping, and dressage.

Since the Appaloosa is easy to handle and very good-natured, it is a perfect match for juveniles.

Barb

Origin

Algeria, Libya, Morocco

Colours

predominantly grey, also every other solid colour; rarely black; palomino not tolerated

Exterior

14.1 to 15.3 hands; square form; sloping croup with tail set low; oblique shoulder; rounded chest; straight or slightly convex (dished)



profile; long to medium long head; small ears; well-developed jaw; tail and mane long and profusely developed

Use

all classes of saddle and harness riding; Western riding

History and Origins

Standing between 14.1 and 15.3 hands, the Barb does not count among the giants in the equine world, but when it comes to its tradition as a foundation stallion for other breeds, the fame of the Barb is nearly equivalent to the Arab Thoroughbred. And the race is at least as old.

Cave sketches in Northern Africa prove that there, man and horse had met long before our era. During the Punic Wars (264–146 BC), the people of Carthage struck down the Romans with the help of their courageous horses.

When the Vandals invaded Northern Africa in the 3rd century AD, they crossed their heavy draught horses with the fast African horses. However, the high-time of the Barb began with the reign of Islam. In AD 800, the Moors brought a large amount of their famous horses to Spain, where they mated them with indigenous mares, thus creating the

Andalusian. In 1882, the bride of King Charles II of England brought along Tangier as part of her dowry, and because the king had a passion for horse races, numerous Barbs were imported to England to improve the speed and staying power of the local breeds. Thus, the small North African horses became the forbears of the English Thoroughbred. From then on, other European kings ordered horses from the Barbary Coast to improve their own indigenous breeds.

The Lipizzaner, the Camargue Horse, and nearly every American gaited horse has some Barb blood.

Temperament and Talent

The Barb has a stable character, never shies away, is sure-footed, courageous, and very comfortable to ride, which is especially important for endurance and trail riders. The calm and friendly horse is well suited for dressage, but is also much-used in jumping and Western riding, as well as every class of harness. Some horses also show a talent for pace and rack. It is the more astonishing that this versatile breed is only known to insiders in our countries. For example, the first Barbs

were imported to Germany as late as 1990. The purebred Barb (RB) is now nearly only to be found in the stud farms of its homelands.

For a good 1000 years now, Barbs have always been crossed to Arabs. The Arab-Barb (AB = Arab sire and Barb mare) combines the speed and staying power of an Arab with the hardiness and calm temper of a Barb and is a horse preferred by serious competition riders.

Camargue Horse

Origin

Rhône delta/France

Colours

white to grey





Exterior

13.1 to 14.1 hands; short back; narrow croup; tail set low; straight shoulder; deep, wide chest; strong limbs; well-developed joints; large hooves; short and broad neck set deep; triangular head; broad, even forehead; straight or slightly convex nasal peak; powerful jaw; short ears placed far apart

Use

trekking and endurance riding; managing bull herds; eventing; harness; vaulting

History and Origins

Nothing is known about the origin of these horses. While some experts judge the famous Camargue Horses to be the almost unchanged descendants

of the Solutré horse from the Ice Age, others presume the North African Barb to be the forbears of this undemanding and brave breed.

The “white horses of the Camargue”, also called “horses of the sea”, even today run wild and live in small herds of 40 to 50 animals, roaming the marshlands and plains of Southern France. However, the animals are supervised at regular intervals by researchers. The fillies are branded and those colts judged unsuitable for breeding are caught and gelded at the age of three years.

Temperament and Talent

These brave horses are indispensable helpers for cattlemen. They are trained to help manage fight-

ing bulls, which can be quite dangerous. Agile and nimble-footed, they can be compared to American Western horses and Andalusians.

The sure-footed, powerful horses are also used as saddle horses for tourists, pleasure riders, and as excellent workhorses. The Camargue Horse is only fully grown at the age of five to seven, but lives very long, is undemanding and courageous and has been an approved breed since 1968.

Cheval de Selle Français

Origin

France

Colours

all solid colours

Exterior

15.3 to 16.3 hands; powerful horse with ample chest; long, well-ribbed back; strong, long neck; powerful, oblique shoulder; muscular hindquarter; long legs with hocks well closed; broad head with eyes lying far apart; slim muzzle; long and lively ears; conformation can vary due to its diversified origins

Use

versatile saddle horse, also for serious competition and races; very talented for dressage

History and Origins

It is best-known as the horse of the Cadre Noir, the French equivalent of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna. The Cheval de Selle Français has a long history. It can be traced back to the Norman horse, which is thought to have been bred in the Normandy over 1000 years ago and which Wil-



liam the Conqueror presumably took with him as a war mount when he invaded England. Later on, the Norman horse was ignored for several hundred

years, until in 1683 Colbert introduced Barb horses to improve the blood, followed by Danish and, in the 18th and 19th centuries, English Thoroughbred and halfbred horses, especially Norfolk Trotter. The result was the Anglo-Norman. The "Société du Cheval de Guerre" (association for war-horses) was founded and English Thoroughbreds were imported to France. Two types of Anglo-Norman horse came into existence: the slightly larger saddle horse type and the smaller, more sturdy cob type, which to this day is bred in La Manche and used for hauling wood. In 1967, following a decree by the French ministry of agriculture from 1958, all French halfbreds, which were becoming increasingly similar, such as the Vendéen, the Charollais and the Angevin, were merged under the title "Cheval de Selle Français" (French saddle horse). The Cheval de Selle Français, which in large parts is a descendant of the Anglo-Norman, is an excellent saddle horse which shows much success in serious competition classes. It has to be said though, that in the classical dressage class they lack the extraordinary charisma for which the Andalusian and the Lipizzaner are world famous.

Cleveland Bay

Origin

Cleveland, Yorkshire/Great Britain

Colours

light bay to chestnut; black legs, mane, and tail; only a small white star is permissible

Exterior

16.1 to 16.3 hands; powerful, rather long back; good shoulder; short, hard legs; strong joints; strong hindquarter; tail set rather high; long neck; large head with Roman nose; friendly eyes

Use

coach horse

History and Origins

According to its use as helper of the tradesman, or chapman, this breed was once also referred to as Chapman Horse. In the 17th and 18th centuries, this robust and long-lived animal was used by the travelling salesman of the Cleveland Hills as a packhorse.

Towards the end of the 18th century the Yorkshire Coach Horse developed in Cleveland and Yorkshire through admixture with Arab and English Thoroughbred, and the result was a slightly larger

and more-striking version of the Cleveland Bay, which today is seriously threatened with extinction.

Today, the Cleveland Bay is not only the chosen horse for drawing the royal equipage of the British monarchy, it is also an excellent horse used for prestigious carriages on festive occasions throughout the world.

With its outstanding qualities for breeding, the Cleveland Bay also influenced the development of the Oldenburg and the Holstein. In the U.K., it is frequently crossed with the English Thoroughbred, which produces quality hunters and jumpers.

Temperament and Talent

The Cleveland Bay is renowned for being undemanding, for its ground-covering action, and its qualities at canter and jumping.

Criollo

Origin

South America

Colours

cremelo, dun, red dun with dorsal stripe, palomino

Exterior

13.3 to 15.0 hands; deep, short back; oblique shoulder; steep croup; pronounced, muscular withers; medium long neck; strong, muscular legs; hard hoo-



ves; large head; broad forehead; often Roman nose

Use

pleasure saddle horse

History and Origins

This small saddle horse of the Gauchos is one of the most robust breeds in the world. Its history begins in 1535, when Don Pedro Mendoza, the founder of the city of Buenos Aires, imported about 100 Andalusian and several heavy horses. These horses ran wild in the pampas and grew into large herds. Because of the harsh conditions of the surroundings and weather, an enduring, undemanding, and sound horse developed. Every now and then, settlers would catch a few horses to use as saddle and packhorses. But specific breeding as such only started about 100 years ago, when the horses were mated with European and American stallions. The first studbook dates from 1893 and was formed in Chile, where people referred to the Criollo as "Fina Sangre Chilena". Studbooks were established in Argentina in 1912, and Brazil and Uruguay in 1930. Eventually, all four registers were combined in one, the "Studbook of the Criollo Breed".

Temperament and Talent

Even today, this robust, intelligent, and enduring horse is the preferred saddle horse for cattlemen. It also exhibits astonishing tractive power.



Einsiedler

Origin

Switzerland

Colours

all solid colours

Exterior

15.1 to 16.1. hands; straight back; very muscular croup; well placed shoulder

Use

versatile saddle and eventing horse; coach horse

History and Origins

The Einsiedler derived its name from the Benedictine monastery of the same name in Switzerland, where a stud farm is reported to have existed in as early as 1064. At that time, the Einsiedler was only bred for the monks who required a horse when they travelled. Only in the 16th century did the large export of "Monks' horses" begin, especially to Italy. In the course of the French Revolution, towards the end of the 18th century nearly all of the horses were taken to France as spoils of war. Breeding only took

on a new surge in 1866, when the four-year-old Yorkshire stallion "Bracken" was purchased to improve the blood, followed by the Anglo-Norman sires "Corall" (in 1883) and "Egalité" (in 1885). At the beginning of the 20th century, the Einsiedler was admixed with the blood of English Hackney, where name should be mentioned of the influential sire "Thirtleby-Saxonia".

The Einsiedler made the foundation for the Swiss Warm-blood, from which it cannot be distinguished today.



English Thoroughbred

Origin

England

Colours

all solid colours, especially brown

Exterior

15.3 to 16.3 hands; slim, elegant horse; powerful, short back; sloping, muscular croup; pronounced withers; well-set tail held high; long, slim neck; wide, deep chest; excellent long legs with well-developed limbs and joints; finely chiselled head; large, lively eyes; small, sharp ears; thin, silky coat

Use

mostly racing; also eventing, jumping, dressage, and hunting

History and Origins

The origin of the elegant breed is due to the British passion for racing and betting. In the olden days, races were held on festive days and took place on market squares, or a private competition was organised between noblemen.

At the beginning of the 17th century, under the reign of James I, races were regulated. The king had a palace built in Newmarket, a tiny village in Eastern England, where the court would spend "sportive holidays". Though James I preferred hunting to horse races, he quickly recognised the strategic importance of fast and enduring horses for the military and promoted the breed-





ing. In the mid-17th century, under the reign of Charles II, Newmarket became the centre of horse racing.

This was the time of the “royal plates”, or trophies. Charles II came to every one of the races, which were held once a year, and he is the only British king to have ever won a flat-racing competition as a jockey. Because this sport was so popular, a new class of horses developed. Whereas at the beginning only local horses competed against each other, now the fastest indigenous mares were crossed with Oriental stallions. The horses became faster, larger, and more elegant. But still, there was no standardised breed yet.

The foundation stallions of the English Thoroughbred only came

to England some 50 years later. These were the three legendary sires “Darley Arabian”, “Byerley Turk”, and “Godolphin Arabian”. In 1704, the British Consul Thomas Darley sent “Darley Arabian” over to England from Aleppo. “Byerley Turk” was the war mount belonging to Colonel Byerley, and “Godolphin Arabian” was a present by the Sultan of Morocco, Muley Abdullah, for the French King, Louis XV.

Legend has it that this horse was later found, hitched to a cart in Paris, by a Quaker called Coke and eventually it ended up in the stud farm of Lord Godolphin, situated near Cambridge.

These three foundation sires, together with approximately 50 mares, made up the ground stock of the breed, and 80% of all of today’s Thoroughbreds are their descendants. Only those horses may be called English Thoroughbred, whose ancestors on both sire’s and dam’s side are registered in the first volume of the General Stud Book, which was first published in England in 1793.

When it comes to breeding criteria, speed is the decisive factor.

Only those horses which have successfully run a certain choice of extremely difficult races are allowed to be mated. While Arab Thoroughbred horses are especially suited for long races, the English Thoroughbred is specialised in short races and can reach a speed of up to 44 mph, which means it is the fastest horse in the world. In the course of history, the English Thoroughbred has been used to upgrade nearly every other horse breed. Though the focus of breeding still lies in Great Britain, English Thoroughbred studs can now be found all over the world.

Temperament and Talent

These intelligent, tough, enduring, and courageous horses are very fiery and sensitive and not suited for every horseman.

European Standard Trotter

Origin

Rhineland, Hesse/Germany

Colours

mostly bay, brown, black

Exterior

14.1 to 16.3 hands; robust rump; often smooth back; short, steep

croup; muscular, slightly straight shoulder; dry, wiry legs; steep pastern; not always elegant head; slim neck set deep; large eyes

Use

race horse for harness racing; pleasure saddle horse

History and Origins

The story of harness racing begins in the second half of the 19th century. In Germany, the stud farm "Mariahall", established in 1885, lay the foundation for



breeding harness race horses there. Russian Orlov Trotters were mated with the fast American Standardbreds and later on with French Trotters, which were renowned to be good stayers. In 1927, a register was introduced for the trotters, and since World War II, this breed is standardised for various European countries. Famous trotters foaled in Germany are "Epilog", "Permit", and "Simmerl". Through several ridden performance tests and races covering various lengths, the performance standard is registered according to age and prize money. By admixing them with American blood, now there are even pace trotters in the European stock. This is the reason why the European Standard Trotter shows a disposition for pace and rack.

French Trotter

Origin

France

Colours

all colours; mostly bay

Exterior

16.1 to 16.3 hands; strong back; pronounced withers; often straight shoulder; long, hard legs; rather short cannons; powerful hocks; expressive head

Use

race horse for trotting races in harness and under saddle

History and Origins

Because trotting races in France are not only held hitched to the sulky, but also under the saddle,



the French Trotter was bred to be larger than the American trotters. The foundation stallion of this breed was the Norfolk Trotter "Young Rattler", imported to France and put to indigenous Norman mares at the beginning of the 19th century, when the blockade put upon Britain by Napoleon had been lifted. Later, English Thoroughbred blood was also admixed.

In 1836, the first trotting race was held in Cherbourg, when the organisers wanted to single out the best breeding stock. But soon this sport, driven in a sulky or in a team, became so popular that it quickly spread throughout France.

Today's French Trotter, whose development in the 19th century took place parallel to that of the Anglo-Norman, was created through further crossing with Norfolk Trotters, American Standardbred, and Orlov Trotters. This breed has been purebred since 1937.

Temperament and Talent

The tough and willing horse has more staying power than the American Standardbred, but is not quite as fast.

Friesian

Origin

West Friesland/Netherlands

Colours

only black without marking (a small star is permissible)



Exterior

15.1 to 16.2 hands; a moderately heavy horse with good self-carriage; straight back of medium length; slightly sloping croup; tail set low; well set on neck; medium large, square head; thick and wavy mane; stable foundation; feathers; hard and open hooves

Use

saddle, coach, and circus horse

History and Origins

Skeleton finds teach us that even 3000 years ago there were prehistoric cold-blood horses in Friesland. Experts presume that the Friesian is a direct descendant of these. But this powerful and gentle horse was only first mentioned in the 16th century, when the Spanish army brought Iberian and Oriental blood with them.

In those days, the Friesian, which is bred along the coast of the North Sea, was all the rage because of its talent for dressage, probably due to a crossing with Andalusian sires. When in the 17th century race trotters were bred in the Netherlands, the Friesian "Harddraver" (fast trotter) was very influential in the development of the well-known Orlov Trotter.

But later on, this once-celebrated breed was ignored. The population of "black pearls" diminished dramatically. When in 1913 there were only three sires left in the whole country and the breed was threatened with extinction, Friesian farmers and breeders took the initiative and founded the association "Het Friesche Paard". A new studbook was published and breeding was recommenced

with the help of the related Oldenburg. In 1954, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands took over patronage of the association.

Temperament and Talent

Today, it is an integral part of Friesian culture. The Friesian is now highly popular with pleasure riders and harness drivers, but also chosen by competition riders because it has a good, high action at trot and smooth, ground-covering gaits.

Gelderland

Origin

Netherlands

Colours

mostly chestnut, also brown and grey



Exterior

15.1 to 16.0 hands; compact, strong, broad rump; good shoulder; voluminous neck; strong hindquarter with tail set high; strong legs with clear hocks; round, hard hooves

Use

light workhorse; coach horse; occasionally saddle horse with good jumping talent

History and Origins

This powerful but not very elegant warm-blood probably goes back to Andalusian and Neapolitan horses that were brought to the Netherlands during the reign of the Hapsburg. In the province of Gelderland, these horses were then crossed with sires from Oldenburg, East Friesland, and with Hackneys.

Temperament and Talent

The Gelderland is an excellent coach horse but is also of great service as a draught and workhorse.

Since the mid-1950s, it has been increasingly improved with the blood of English Thoroughbred, Holstein, Trakehner, and Anglo-Norman horses. The Gelderland

is a good saddle horse with a great talent for jumping.

Hackney

Origin

Great Britain

Colours

predominantly brown, bay, chestnut, black; often with markings



Exterior

15.1 to 15.3 hands; long back; high withers; muscular shoulder; well set on neck; elegant head; small nuzzle; expressive eyes; strong, stable legs with short cannons; slightly oblique pastern; tail set and carried high; fine, silky coat

Use

harness horse

History and Origins

Nobody can explain how this elegant horse with Arab blood in its veins got its deprecating name. Hackney is derived from the Anglo-Norman term "Haquenai", which in the Middle Ages was used when referring to the riding animals of the lowest social classes. The Hackney, which often comes with striking markings, goes back to the Norfolk Trotter.

These horses were the result of putting English Thoroughbred sires to indigenous mares; a breed was developed which in the 18th century counted among the most acclaimed trotters. Unfortunately, in the meantime this breed, also called Norfolk Roadster, today is extinct. The high-time of the Hackney horse started at the beginning of the 19th century, when these elegant coach horses were used to bring travellers to their destinations safely and quickly. But with the introduction of the railway, the career of these proud horses came to a halt. They were on the verge of being forgotten, but today have reappeared all over the world.

Temperament and Talent

The Hackney is very lively and has a fiery pace. At trot, it shows an

exceedingly graceful and high stepping knee action, throwing the hooves forward in an exceptional, round movement. In full action, these energetic horses seem to be flying over the ground.

Hanoverian

Origin

Lower Saxony/Germany

Colours

all solid colours



Exterior

16.0 to 17.1 hands; straight, not too long back; pronounced withers; good, muscular croup; nicely carried tail; long, well set on and nicely held neck; slim, dry, clear legs with well-developed joints; well-proportioned



Use

multi-purpose competition horse with enormous jumping talent; dressage; eventing; harness; Western riding; agriculture

History and Origins

The Hanoverian is one of the most important German breeds and is esteemed by the best horsemen throughout the world. It is bred in one of the largest enclosed warm-blood breeding regions of the world. This elegant horse with its impressive jumping talent goes back to the famous Hanoverian "white-born" horses, which were bred in the royal stud farm of Memsen, and later in the

royal stud farm of Herrenhausen. But the history of this breed really originates in the state stud at Celle in Lower Saxony, which was founded in 1735 by George II.

In 1714, the prince elector had married the English Queen, and so Hanover became part of the British Empire. The stud farm started out with 14 Holstein blacks, and from the beginning they were mated with English Thoroughbreds and half-bloods, so that the Hanoverian is a descendant of the three famous Arabian stallions. In later years, sires from Mecklenburg and Pomerania were also introduced.

Sporting Horses

These good agriculture and cavalry horses only became redundant with the mechanisation of agriculture.

But after World War II, the Hanoverian horses were quickly crossed with Thoroughbred and Trakehner stallions, such as the famous sires "Semper Idem" and "Abglanz", thus creating a modern saddle and jumping horse. Always in close contact with humans, a multitasking horse was developed in the course of the generations which is eager to perform and very well-suited for keeping in the open.

A Hanoverian horse must be registered by the stud organisation

and must carry a branding. When choosing a mare today, rideability, character, and temperament are the prime categories of choice.

Every year, more than 1500 young mares are presented under saddle to gather information about the riding characteristics of the future dams.

There is also a trial for the stallions, the famous 100-days ridden test, where the performance under saddle is equally important.

Holstein

Origin

Holstein/Germany



Colours

all solid colours, mostly brown

Exterior

15.3 to 17.0 hands; strong, at times rather long back; very muscular croup; wide, deep chest; correct legs with clear, dry joints; long, beautiful neck; expressive head; lively eyes; wide nostrils; agile ears

Use

all-rounder with a great jumping ability

History and Origins

The Holstein is one of Germany's oldest breeds and goes back to the 13th century. Originally a heavy marshland horse and medieval war mount, it was mostly bred by monasteries until the Reformation, when it was improved with the blood of Oriental, Neapolitan, and Spanish horses.

As early as the 16th century, this large-framed horse with the typical Roman head was widely known, and stud farms in Spain, Italy, France, and Denmark imported Holstein horses. Holstein stallions made the foundation stock for the stud farms of Celle, Dillenburg, and Cordoba.

After the Napoleonic Wars, these horses, too, had to face a difficult time. The Duke of Augustenburg imported some good Thoroughbred stallions from England and later on some Yorkshire Coach Horses. Particularly influential were "Burlington Turk 81", "Brilliant 448", and "Owstwick 254".

After the Franco-Prussian War, the stud farm of Traventhal was established near Segeberg, and in 1891 all the breeders joined in an association. Today's Holstein is an attentive, relaxed, and eager all-round talent. The legendary "Tora", who won gold at the 1936 Olympics, and Fritz Tiedemann's famous "Meteor" were both Holstein horses.



Irish Hunter

Origin

Ireland

Colours

all colours, mostly bay, dark brown, black, grey and also chestnut

Exterior

16.0 to 17.1. hands; square form; compact body; deep chest; well-proportioned head; straight profile or slight Roman nose; long and muscular neck; good and oblique shoulder; short back; broad and slightly sloping croup with good musculature; strong legs; clean and hard joints; very visible tendons and hard hoof

Use

hunting and jumping

History and Origins

Horse lovers appreciate this breed as probably the best cross-country and jumping horse in the world. And yet, officially, it does not exist. Because the Irish Hunter isn't a breed of its own, but only a type. It is said that this type of horse is bred by Irish farmers in happy-go-lucky, uncontrolled crossings. But usually, the Irish Hunter is produced by putting Thoroughbred sires to Irish Draught mares or Cleveland Bay mares. For a good 300 years, the Irish Hunter has always been bred ignoring the issue of beauty, but with the focus set on its use as a hunter and jumper. Three differ-



ent types can be distinguished today: the heavy hunter (with a rider weighing up to 210 lbs./95 kg), the medium hunter (carrying a rider of up to 180 lbs./82 kg), and the light hunter (carrying up to 165 lbs./75 kg). In order to ensure the further existence of the light type, Irish Hunter mares are crossed once more with Thoroughbred stallions.

Temperament and Talent

The Irish Hunter shows excellent jumping ability, is enduring, robust, eager, and courageous, and yet calm and with a balanced character. These horses are known to be able to cope with the most difficult obstacles and to be fast enough during a hunt to keep up with the packs of hounds.

Knapstrup

Origin

Denmark

Colours

spotted patterns: leopard, blanket, and snowflake

Exterior

large horses from 14.2 hands; ponies under 14.2 hands; modern type: elegant, generously

built and correct saddle horse with spirited, ground-covering, elastic action; baroque type: wide chest; not too long back; well-rounded croup; short, powerful, dry foundation; well-formed, hard hooves; strong, muscular neck carried relatively high; voluminous head tending to a Roman nose



Use

riding, vaulting, coach, Western riding, circus

History and Origins

Apparently, the foundation mare of this horse breed with the striking spotted coat was brought to Denmark in the 19th century by a Spanish officer, who then sold her to a butcher. The butcher in turn sold the Andalusian chestnut mare, which had "blanket" markings, to the Knapstrup estate, where she was mated with a Frederiksborg stallion. Later, the blood of English Thoroughbred stallions was added to improve action and staying power of the Knapstrup. Ever since, this exceedingly versatile breed is being kept by aficionados as a "side-line" to the Frederiksborg.

Temperament and Talent

The Knapstrup is slightly lighter than the Frederiksborg, has a calm temperament and is very eager to learn. This multi-purpose breed is just as suited for pleasure riders as for vaulting and in harness, and even shows a talent for Western riding. Because of its charming spotted coat and ability for dressage, the Knapstrup is also an attractive horse for the circus.

Lipizzaner

Origin

Lipizza/present day Slovenia

Colours

mostly grey, later white, rarely bay or black



Exterior

15.1 to 15.2 hands; short, conspicuous, baroque type; wide chest; sufficiently long, muscular back; strong, round croup; short, strong, dry foundation with defined texture; small, correctly formed hooves; strong, not very long neck; heavy, long, dry head; characteristic ram's head

Use

saddle and harness horse; dressage (High School); farm work

History and Talent

Over 400 years ago, the Austrian Archduke Karl II of Inner Austria bought a ramshackle villa called Lipizza off the Bishop of Trieste in order to breed prestigious horses for parades and royal carriages to be used at court in Vienna. This took place in the year 1580. The foundation stock of the oldest European horse breed to be developed on a stud farm was made up of the karst country horses of the stud, which had been renowned even in Antiquity

for their endurance, strength, and speed. Several stallions were brought in from the North Italian Polesina, plus nine more stallions and 24 mares from Spain. In later years, the blood of Danish Frederiksborg and German horses from the stud Lippe-Bückeburg was also admixed. But most of all it was the noble Andalusian horses from Spain which were used to upgrade the blood of the horses bred in Lipizza until well into the late 18th century, which also explains where the name of the royal riding academy derived from, the Spanish High School, founded in Vienna in 1735. At the beginning of the 18th century,



experts admixed a few Arab horses, taking care that the baroque horse type should remain intact. Until this very day, six lines have remained in the stud farm of Lipizza, which go back to the foundation stallions introduced in the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries: "Pluto" (Frederiksborg), "Conversano" and "Neapolitano" (both original Neapolitans), "Maestoso" and "Fafory" (both Kladruber), and "Siglavy" (Arab). Whereas today the Lipizzaner horse nearly stands as a synonym for grey, until the previous century this breed came in all solid colours.

The famous "Emperor's white" only became fashionable much later. A Lipizzaner is born black or brown and will only turn into the much-admired silver shade at the age of seven to ten. The Lipizzaner matures rather late. At the Spanish High School of Vienna, training is only started when the horse is four years old, and not until three months later will a saddle first be put on. Experts say that Lipizzaner horses tend to be more sensitive than other breeds. They need more time to learn, but once they have understood something, they will master it much the better. The Lipizzaner

shows all those characteristic traits which any rider could dream of for his or her horse. It is a good-natured and obedient horse, loyal and affectionate, willing to learn and intelligent, enduring and undemanding, and yet full of temperament. No wonder that its career went on even after the fall of the imperial and royal house of Austria. The former army and prestige mount today is a popular competition horse, especially suited for "High School" dressage. The prime stud farm of Lipizza today is situated in Slovenia. Those Lipizzaner horses which can be admired performing at the Spanish High School of Vienna have since 1918 been bred in the Austrian state stud farm of Piber, in Western Styria.



Lusitano

Origin

Portugal

Colours

grey, bay, black, dun, palomino

Exterior

14.3 to 16.1 hands; muscular, strong, broad withers, often not very prominent; deep, muscular chest of medium width; long, oblique shoulder; nearly straight back with short, pronounced lumbar region; strong croup; convex profile; clearly muscled, dry pastern; pronounced hind-quarters set in a good angle; medium long, well set on neck; Roman head; large eyes; fine, slim ears

Use

pleasure horse; dressage, especially suited for the High School; hunting, harness, managing cattle; bullfights

History and Origins

Next to the Altér Real, the Lusitano is one of Portugal's oldest horse breeds. Its origin goes back to the old Iberian horses, just like the Andalusian. When Europe's monarchs had portraits painted of them mounted on "Iberian



war-horses", no distinction was made yet between "Pura Raza Española" and Lusitano. Its name is derived from its homeland Portugal, which formerly was referred to as Lusitania. There it is employed as a saddle, coach, and light workhorse, but it is especially acclaimed when performing in the bullring, which in Portugal is very dangerous, but without blood being shed. The bullfighters, called *Rejoneadores*, only fight from the saddle of a horse. The horse, which is trained in the High School, needs to show great courage, be nimble-footed and fast. Though it is a multi-purpose horse, this intelligent and eager to work horse was never one for the masses.

Temperament and Talent

There are only about 20,000 Lusitano horses in the world. In Northern Europe, this breed, which tends to bond closely with humans, is used for classical dressage, and also as a pleasure horse, for endurance competitions, and hunting. Historically, the breeding of Lusitano horses was explicitly reserved for the nobility, but today it is usually kept on country estates. In Portugal, these horses live out on the pastures, although stallions and mares are kept strictly apart.

Mecklenburg

Origin

Mecklenburg/Germany

Colours

all solid colours; mostly bay

Exterior

15.3 to 16.3 hands; rather short back; somewhat sloping croup; dry foundation; powerful shoulder and chest; well set on neck; medium large head held nicely;



good legs and bones, round hooves

Use

versatile horse with a good character

History and Temperament

The history of this elegant, medium large warm-blood began with the founding of the Friedrich-Wilhelm stud farm in Neustadt an der Dosse, Germany. In order to obtain a versatile saddle and harness horse that should be employed primarily in the cavalry, English half-blood stallions were put to indigenous mares. The blood was further improved by admixing Akhal-Teke and Trakehner. When the GDR was formed, the stud in Neustadt became the "people's own stud farm", and Hanoverian, Trakehner, and Thoroughbred horses were inter-crossed. The Mecklenburg is rather similar to the Hanoverian and they are closely related because the same blood lines were used to consolidate the two breeds, and the stallions were even exchanged.

Temperament and Talent

The Mecklenburg is an energetic saddle horse with a good character and a lot of charm.

Missouri Fox Trotter

Origin

Missouri, Arkansas/USA

Colours

grey, chestnut, bay, black, spotted



Exterior

4.3 to 16.1 hands; short, straight back; oblique, very muscular shoulder; well-formed, muscular legs; hard hooves; dry head; sharp ears; shiny eyes; smooth, silky coat

Use

pleasure and family horse; show horse

History and Origins

The speciality of this lively but very gentle breed is the so-called "fox trot". This is a broken gait where the forelegs make a ground-covering walking step while the hind legs are trotting.

This gait, which is related to the pace, is very comfortable for the rider, who experiences little jarring. The relatively small, compact horses developed around 1820, when the first settlers came to the Ozark Mountains of Missouri and Arkansas. The Missouri Fox Trotter goes back in lineage to Arabs, Morgan horses, and plantation horses from the Southern States. Later on, American Saddlebred, Tennessee Walker, and American Standardbred were admixed.

Temperament and Talent

These intelligent horses are very well suited for children and beginners, but they are rarely seen in Europe. In the 1980s, a crossing was created in Austria, putting a Missouri Fox Trotter sire to various mares that performed the pace.

Morgan Horse

Origin

USA

Colours

predominantly bay, black, chestnut

Exterior

14.1 to 15.3 hands; short, strong back; round croup; long, oblique



shoulder; clear legs; hard hooves; powerful neck; small, broad head; intelligent eyes; dense mane and tail

Use

multi-purpose saddle, coach, and draught horse; Western riding

History and Origins

There are only very few breeds where every horse goes back in lineage to one progenitor. However, the Morgan is one of them. Its ancestor was the stallion "Figure", foaled in 1789, who later on was named after his owner, "Justin Morgan". He probably originated from a Dutch carriage horse that was put to a mare which had plenty of Arab blood in her. "Justin Morgan" was a splendid saddle and workhorse, and had excellent prepotency. Not only did his descendants compare with him in appearance, character, and size, they were also true to the original type when it came to speed and soon conquered every turf of North America. The patriarch himself changed owners a few times, won competitions in hauling heavy loads, in harness and trotting races, and worked as a farm horse. The Morgan is a very robust, enduring, and loyal

warm-blood with energetic action, though not very ground covering gaits. He has had great influence on other American breeds such as the Standardbred, the Saddlebred Horse, and the Tennessee Walker. Mounted police and the rangers in nature reserves prefer to ride this horse, which is gentle and eager to perform.

Mustang

Origin

USA

Colours

all colours; many spotted

Exterior

12.3 to 14.2 hands; powerful rump; sloping croup; small withers; extremely hard legs; neck held low; rather coarse head



Use

Western saddle horse, difficult to control

History and Origins

The Mustang horse is the synonym for the horse of Native Americans and cowboys. When the first Spanish settlers began to conquer the "Wild West", they brought their Andalusian and Barb horses with them. Some horses came to live freely, slowly expanding to large herds which for over 300 years lived in semi-feral state in the sheer endless plains of North America. In the North, they were called "Broncos" or "Cayuse", whereas in California, Texas, and New Mexico they were referred to as "Mustangs". The Native Americans caught the best horses and used them for hunting down bison. Cattlemen chased thousands of them to tame them for working the cattle herds. And the cavalry wanted them for their war expeditions. Later on, many Mustang horses were simply slaughtered.

The herds, which years before had roamed the prairies in hundreds of thousands, shrank to a population of just a few thousand horses.

Temperament and Talent

This incredibly hardy and robust horse is the patriarch of all Western horses, and for a long time was held to be especially difficult, even vicious. The last remaining Mustangs living in freedom are extremely shy. An association has now been formed to protect this historic breed.

Nonius

Origin

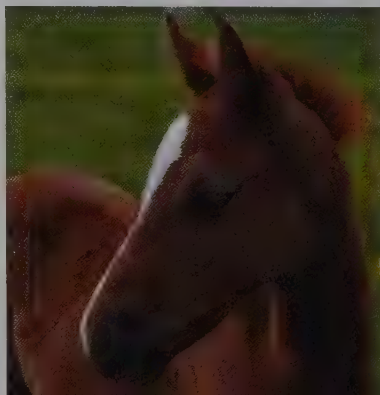
Hungary

Colours

bay and black, no markings

Exterior

15.1 to 16.1 and 16.1 to 17.1 hands respectively; well set, long shoulder; wide chest; well set on, long neck; short, narrow croup; very muscular hindquarter; robust tendons and joints; sometimes large head, Roman head





Use

depending on the type, carriage or multi-purpose horse

History and Origins

The foundation stallion who gave this Hungarian breed its name was the Anglo-Norman patriarch "Nonius", a spoil of war taken from the French stud farm at Zweibrücken by two Hungarian cavalry officers and brought to Mezöhegyes. The son of a Norman mare and English half-blood stallion was mated with Hungarian, Turkish, Arab, Lipizzaner, and Andalusian mares until in 1840 the breed evolved which today is

bred in two different types. "Nonius" turned out to be magnificently prepotent. His descendants are robust, willing to work, enduring, and reliable.

The Large Nonius horse, originally a heavy carriage horse, is still bred in the stud of Mezöhegyes today and is a heavy but elegant coach horse.

The Small Nonius type is a light, willing all rounder with good character and a lively temperament. Because it was improved with Thoroughbred horses, it makes a very good jumping horse.

Oldenburg

Origin

Oldenburg/Germany

Colours

bay, black, chestnut, grey

Exterior

15.3 to 16.3 hands; strong back; very muscular croup; pronounced withers; oblique shoulder; long neck; strong and dry legs; medium large head; straight profile

Use

versatile sporting horse; breeding goal is the traditional German Saddle Horse

History and Origins

Count Johann XVI of Oldenburg and his son Count Anton Günther, an expert horseman, were the first to start improving the old, indigenous Friesian horses at the end of the 15th and beginning of the 16th centuries. To upgrade the blood, English, Danish, Neapolitan, and Spanish stallions were admixed.

After a downfall in the 18th century, this breed was revived after a new law, the "Körgegesetz", had been passed in 1820.

By introducing Cleveland Bay, Hanoverian, and Norman stallions, a deep and heavy horse was



developed with a voluminous neck that was employed exclusively as a coach horse. After 1919, the breeding program was changed in favour of a heavy farm animal and when the demand for these declined, Thoroughbreds like "Adonis XX" and Hanoverian sires were admixed towards the end of the 1950s and the breed was changed into a saddle horse.

Temperament and Talent

Until about 1970, the Oldenburg was Germany's heaviest warmblood, while today it is a powerful, modern competition horse which is succeeding in all of the various equestrian events throughout the world. The heavy Oldenburg type is being purebred in Saxony, at the stud farm of Moritzburg.

Orlov Trotter

Origin

Russia

Colours

mostly grey, also bay, black

Exterior

15.2 to 16.3 hands; long, straight back; broad, slightly steep croup; wide chest; long, arched neck; tail set low; bony legs; well-developed tendons and joints; large,

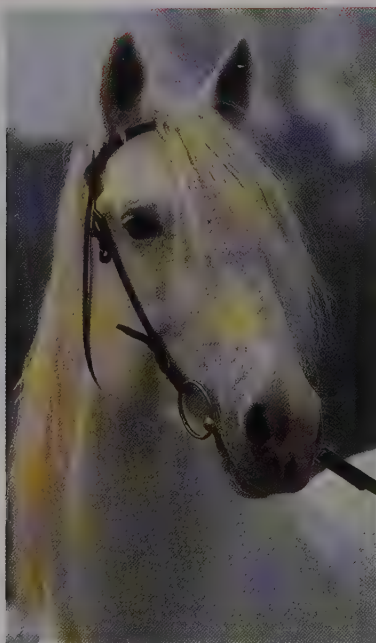


healthy hooves; elegant head; expressive eyes

Use

trotting races; coach and sleigh horse

This must be the most famous Russian horse breed. It was developed because Count Alexeij Grigorievich Orlov, a favourite of Tsarina Catherine II, required an especially fast coach horse to cover the wide expanses of this enormous country. In 1775, he mated the Arab stallion "Smetanka" with a Danish Frederiksborg mare. This took place on his stud farm at Ostrow, situated in the vicinity of Moscow. The result was stallion "Polkan", who in turn was put to a Dutch Harddraver (fast trotter) mare. The descendant, "Bars First", was



the sire on Orlov's stud farm at Chrenowoje for 17 years and he is the foundation stallion of the Orlov Trotter.

He was mainly put to Arab, English Thoroughbred, Dutch, Danish, and Mecklenburg mares. In as early as 1799, the first trotting race took place in Moscow, and in 1834 the first Trotting Association was formed. Soon, the Russian Orlov Trotter had developed into the fastest trotter in the world. But World War I and the October Revolution of 1917 meant the decline of the stock. The Soviet

government later tried to pick up breeding again, but the Orlov Trotter never again came even close to its former level of success. Today, the American Standardbred is much faster than the Orlov Trotter. By inter-crossing with American Standardbred, the slightly faster Russian Trotter was developed.

Paint Horse

Origin

USA

Colours

spotted only

Exterior

14.2 to 15.2 hands; compact, very muscular horse; short rump; long, oblique shoulder; round, broad croup; little-defined withers; medium long neck; strong, deep-set hocks; slim legs; hard hooves; short, dry head with strong jawl

Use

Western riding; family and pleasure horse

History and Origins

The Paint Horse and the Quarter Horse both originate in the Southern States of the USA. It was



a pastime there to hold private horse races on Sundays, and so indigenous mares were crossed with Arab and Turkish horses, English Thoroughbreds, and other fast breeds. Since the 1950s, the Paint Horse has been approved as a breed of its own. Only those horses are admitted to be registered in the Paint Horse studbook which have at least one

parent already registered. Inter-crossing with Quarter Horses is permitted, though. Together with the Quarter Horse and the Appaloosa, these reliable, enduring, and intelligent horses are referred to as Western horses. The calm but lively horses with their spotted coat are finding more and more fans on this side of the Atlantic, too.

Paso Fino

Origin

Columbia, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica

Colours

all colours

Exterior

13.3 to 14.3 hands; dry head with straight or slightly convex profile; head set high; well-placed shoulder; short back with strong lumbar region; strong, slightly

sloping croup; tail set low; finely boned legs; short cannons; hard hooves; short, silky coat; dense, long mane and tail

Use

pleasure horse; parade horse; light coach horse

History and Origins

This breed probably evolved from the horses brought to America by the Spanish conquerors.

The pleasure type is a versatile saddle horse that will carry its rider quite comfortably and sure-footedly across the country for hours on end, and it also is a great pleasure in the show ring. The performance type shows more concentration, presence, and temperament.

The classic Fino type is highly concentrated, and with its fast, short steps nearly treads the ground.

Whereas the pleasure and the performance types with their Paso Corto (work gait) and Paso Largo (fast rack) are suitable for beginners, too, the classic Fino type requires an experienced horseman who will know how to handle these exceedingly ener-





getic animals. Apart from the rack, the Paso Fino also possesses a smooth trot and an excellent canter.

Temperament and Talent

Besides the quality of the gaits, much attention is placed on the charisma of the animal and its agreeable character. In its countries of origin, this fiery and yet willing horse is used mainly as a workhorse and for horse shows.

But because of its comfortable gait, it is also a popular pleasure and coach horse.

Paso Peruano

Origin

Peru

Colours

chestnut; bay; black; rarely dun, palomino, and grey

Exterior

approximately 14.3 hands; dry head with straight or slightly convex profile; broad forehead; alert eyes; dense mane and tail; head set on high, rather well developed; long, oblique shoulder; croup sloping slightly; tail set low

Use

cross-country and trekking; Western riding

History and Origins

Due to the nature of the landscape, for many years the horse was the only comfortable means of transport for the people of Peru. This is why the noblemen and estate owners began breeding horses as long as 500 years ago, following the motto that travelling on horseback should be as comfortable and prestigious as possible. They required a horse to oversee the length and width of their estates, to control the workmen, but also for parades and

fiestas. This is why they wanted a horse that should not only be strong, enduring, and as smooth to ride as possible, but they also wanted it to answer the Spanish ideal of beauty, meaning that a horse should be fiery, elegant, and refined.

Apart from willingness to work, sure-footed action, staying power, and robustness, the horse was also expected to possess a smooth gait. The foundation stock for breeding was formed out of those horses which the Spanish had brought with them to the "New World", i.e., Iberian country horses, Andalusians, Barb horses, and Spanish Jenetts, which at the time were very much in favour because of their comfortable gait.

The result of a continuous selective breeding was the Paso Peruano, an elegant and at the same time powerful horse with an extremely strong hindquarter, who possesses the rack. Experts distinguish between the "Paso llano", a slow, equally spaced four-beat gait, and the somewhat faster "Sobreandando". The quality of the gait is decided by its smoothness, with the rider sitting in the saddle as comfortably as



possible. Trot and pure pace are not accepted with a ridden and trained Paso Peruano. The rack is genetically transmitted 100% in this horse breed.

These robust and graceful animals are just as suited for cross-country riding and trekking as for pleasure dressage and Western riding.

Pinto

Origin

USA

Colours

spotted horse in two patterns; overo: white spots on a dark coat (chestnut, bay, black); tobiano: dark spots on a white coat (legs always grey)

Exterior

Hunter type: from 15.2 hands; elegant, generously built, and correct saddle horse with lively, ground-covering, and elastic action; Pleasure type: 14.1 to 16.0 hands; breeding goal of the Arab, Partbred-Arab, Anglo-Arab, and small English Thoroughbred



Pony and small horse type: 11.2 to 14.2 hands; breeding goal German Saddle Pony; Stock type: 14.1 to 15.3 hands; breeding goal Quarter Horse and Paint Horse; Five-gaited type: 15.0 to 16.1 hands; breeding goal American Saddlebred, Hackney, Morgan, and Tennessee Walking horse; Lewitzer: 12.3 to 14.2 hands; small, dry, expressive head; medium long neck; pronounced withers; good, free shoulder; long enough, slightly sloping croup

Use

all-round saddle horse; harness horse; Western riding; five-gaited; show horse

History and Origins

The Pinto is, strictly speaking, not a horse breed but a term for a colour, the name deriving from the Spanish word for "painted". However, the "Pinto Horse Association of America" succeeded in 1963 in having the Pinto, or Spotted Horse, registered as an approved breed. The appearance of the Pinto can vary significantly. There are six types of Pinto horses. The stock type usually is a Western horse, bred on the stock of Paint or Quarter Horses.

The pleasure type reminds one more of an Arab horse, whereas the hunter type has the air of a large warm-blood. Then there are the five-gaited type, the Pinto pony, and, in Germany, the Lewitzer, based on the breeding program of the German Saddle Pony.

Temperament and Talent

In the USA, the Pinto is acclaimed for polo games and horse shows, as well as being a convincing cow pony. It is now rising in popularity among the Western riders of Europe.

Quarter Horse

Origin

USA

Colours

all solid colours; mostly chestnut; no spotted horses

Exterior

14.2 to 15.2 hands; compact, very muscular horse; short rump; long, oblique shoulder; round, broad croup; little-defined withers; medium long neck; powerful hocks set low; slim legs; hard hooves; short, dry head with strong jaw

Use

Western riding; show, race, polo, hunting, and eventing with a good talent for jumping; family and pleasure horse

History and Origins

Not only is the Quarter Horse the only equine able to beat the Thoroughbred when racing over a short distance, it is also one of the most versatile and popular horses in the world. Over one million Quarter Horses are officially registered throughout the world. This

calm, undemanding, and obedient horse with an astonishing speed evolved in the Colonial era.

In those days, it was the rage in the Southern States of the USA to hold races along the main roads of the small towns, covering a distance of exactly a quarter mile.

Bred simply and uniquely for speed, it was inter-crossed with Arab and Turkish horses, English Thoroughbreds, and other breeds known for their speed.



Temperament and Talent

But the Quarter Horse isn't only fast, it is also astonishingly nimble-footed. A trait that cattlemen appreciate very much when working the cattle herds. And they also have "cow sense", which is indispensable when some cattle are to be singled out from the rest of the herd.

But this is not the end of the line. Quarter Horses are reliable, robust, and enduring, they have a balanced temper, are eager to learn and very loyal comrades.

Swedish Warm-blood

Origin

Sweden

Colours

all solid colours, but mostly chestnut, bay, grey

Exterior

15.3 to 16.3 hands; medium long, muscular back; fine, oblique shoulder; high withers; tail set high; strong legs; hard hooves; well set on, medium long neck; beautiful, square head



Use

versatile saddle horse with a special talent for dressage; harness competition horse

History and Origins

When the royal stud farm of Stromsholm was founded in 1621, Oriental, Spanish, and Friesian studs were imported and put to indigenous mares. But only in the middle of the 19th century did selective breeding concentrate on carefully chosen Trakehner, Hanoverian, and English Thoroughbreds in order to create a standardised, fiery, and yet easy to ride warm-blood with a good conformation.

A stallion is only admitted after having passed demanding trials concerning disposition and performance.

The stud farm "Flyinge", already established in 1658, today serves as home base for all stallions.

Temperament and Talent

The Swedish Warm-blood is counted among the best competition horses in the world, and not only Swedish horsemen will be seen entering harness and eventing competitions with a Swedish

Warm-blood, be it at World Championships or the Olympic Games.

Tennessee Walking Horse

Origin

Tennessee/USA

Colours

all solid colours



Exterior

13.3 to 16.3 hands; short, powerful, straight back; muscular, nicely arched neck; sloping croup with good musculature; tail held high; elegant head with straight profile; sharp ears; friendly eyes

Use

pleasure and show horse

History and Origins

This elegant saddle horse was bred by cotton plantation owners because they required a comfortable horse when managing their extensive estates. For this scope, they crossed a Plantation Ambler, the favourite horse of the plantation owners in the Southern States, with Narragansett Pacers, American Saddlebred horses, and Thoroughbred horses. One of this breed's prepotent stallions was the Standardbred Trotter "Black Allan".

The Tennessee Walking Horse only became an approved breed in 1935. The characteristic trait of this horse is the "running walk", with the hind feet displaying an extraordinary, ground covering action. Whereas 90% of the horses kept in the USA are pleasure horses and are thus shod accordingly, show horses are trained for several years in order to learn to move in their "expressive" running gait and are shod with very heavy shoes or are applied rubber gloves which are up to 6 inches high. This friendly and intelligent horse is very popular because of its smooth, easy

movements, a reason why it is especially suited for beginners and elderly riders. In the USA, it belongs to the best-loved and most common breeds. Tennessee Walking Horses only came to Germany in the 1970s.

Trakehner

Origin

Eastern Prussia

Colours

all solid colours

Exterior

15.3 to 16.3 hands; straight, well muscled back and croup; well-defined withers; oblique, long shoulder; tail set high; clear, dry, and correctly placed limbs; harmonious, expressive head; lively, large eyes



Use

multi-purpose horse for all equestrian eventing disciplines

History and Origins

Since the 13th century, the Deutschritterorden (order of the German Knights), which had been formed during the Cru-

Oldenburg, and Holstein, resulting in a large, powerful war mount; on the other hand, horses were bred which would be used for hunting, as messenger horses, and for farm work, and these were based on heavier horses like the Schweiken, small, compact horses, which were mouse-



sades, had been breeding horses in Eastern Prussia. On the one hand, the basis were Dutch and German breeds such as Friesian,

coloured or dun and had a dorsal stripe, comparable to today's Konik. These were mated with Oriental stallions. Prussian Soldier



King, Frederick William I, founded his main stud at Trakehnen in Eastern Prussia in 1732, in order not to have to import so many horses from abroad. He needed good saddle and carriage horses for the royal stables, and required both elegant cavalry mounts and heavy, reliable workhorses. But he had hoped that founding his own stud farm would help him freshen up the royal treasury, and when this did not happen, he gave the stud farm to his son. Frederick the Great realised that for a successful breed, the horses' blood needed to be improved and imported

breeds which at the time were highly acclaimed, such as Spanish, Neapolitan, Bohemia, and English horses, but to no avail—the stud farm lived in the shadows for another 100 years. Things changed through the continuous addition of Arab and English Thoroughbreds, and the stud farm experienced a revival. But in the centuries to come, hardly another breed had to suffer so many armed conflicts as the Trakehner. In 1806, the horses and employees of the stud had to flee to Lithuania because the French army was approaching.

Hardly had they returned to their home, when the whole stock was moved to Silesia, where they remained until 1813. At the beginning of World War I, the prized horses yet again had to seek "exile". This was part of the mobilisation plans, and they were scattered all over Western Germany. Not until 1919 did the last horses return to their home stud. When the Russians invaded Eastern Prussia in World War II, only small parts of the dams and stallions could be brought to Western Germany, and this happened under the most difficult circumstances. In 1947, an association was formed, the "Verband der Züchter und Freunde des Warmblutpferdes Trakehner Abstammung e. V.". It is due to the passion and fervour of these breeders and horse lovers that a sufficient stock could be put together to ensure the further existence of the breed. In the course of years of tedious and careful breeding, a breeding stock was built with famous stallions.

Temperament and Talent

Today, the Trakehner is a reliable, eager to work, fast, and very easy to ride horse, whose good conformation and perfection is surpassed by no other horse breed.

Arab Thoroughbred

Origin

Arabian Peninsula

Colours

all colours; often grey, rarely black; no spotted horses permitted

Exterior

14.2 to 15.0 hands; very dry, harmonious head; high forehead; large, dark eyes set wide apart; concave or straight profile; broad, wide jowl; large nostrils capable of enormous expansion; arched neck; slightly sloping or level croup; tail set high; elegant, free, and elastic action

Use

endurance riding; racing; Western



History and Origins

Its name has a magic sound for every horse lover. No wonder there are so many legends told about the origin of this fiery horse. One of them goes like this: "Then God took a handful of the Southern Wind, blew over it, and created the horse. He spoke: Your name be Arab, all things good be bound to your forelock, booty be bound to your back. I have preferred you against all other work animals, I have made your master be your friend; I have given you the ability to fly without wings". Numerous wondrous stories are also told about Mohamed, who is

considered the founder of the Arab Thoroughbred. It is said that the prophet made a herd of mares suffer from thirst for several days. Then he opened the paddock and let the battle horns be sounded. In a wild gallop, the animals chased to the drinking trough. But five mares slowed down and turned towards Mohamed without having first quenched their thirst. Thus, "Hadbah", "Saglawi", "Kuhejlan", "Hamdani", and "Abajah" were chosen to become the foundation mares of the Arab Thoroughbred. When his camel riders had to suffer serious losses against





the enemies mounted on horses, he soon realised the importance of good horses for the victory of his religion. This is why he made the religious commandment that his followers should only breed pure-blood horses (called "a-sil"). In recompense, he promised them heavenly rewards: "For every grain of barley you give your horse, one sin shall be forgiven". For over 1000 years, more than any other horse breed, this horse underwent careful selection. The Bedouins created a horse that is unrivalled in beauty and harmonious conformation. Life with the Nomads in the desert was difficult for both man and horse, suffering the extreme

temperatures as well as insufficient supply of water and food-stuffs. Man and horse were dependent on one another, forming an inseparable community in order to survive. While the stallions were usually sold, the mares became members of the family and were the only animals allowed to come into the tent. There is an old saying that goes, "My children may suffer hunger and thirst, but never my horse".

The Arab Thoroughbred, also referred to as asile Arab or Arab ox, became the most influential animal in the history of horse breeding. Only those animals registered or approved by the

WAHO (World Arabian Horse Organization) are truly accepted as Arab Thoroughbreds. The unusual relationship between man and animal has remained characteristic until this day.

Temperament and Talent

The Arab Thoroughbred thrives on its owner's friendship and is not the kind you can leave in the stall or on the paddock for a week, to just come and ride it once in a while, at weekends. Hardly any other breed is as versatile. An Arab Thoroughbred can be found used as a pleasure or coach horse, but is just as frequently seen on the racing turf, in the dressage ring, or on a show jumping course. But apart from that, the Arab has a unique special talent, which is endurance. When "running a marathon", the Arab can display all of its endurance, toughness, and stamina. These elegant and racy animals have a pronounced musculature, legs and hooves tough as steel, and large, strong lungs. Apart from that, they carry more red blood particles, responsible for transporting oxygen, than other breeds.

The Arab horse "Rih", invented by German author Karl May, a

specialist on adventure novels, possesses all those virtues which characterise the Arab Thoroughbred: incredibly undemanding, enduring, intelligent, and very friendly.

Westphalian

Origin

Westphalia/Germany

Colours

all solid colours

Exterior

16.0 to 17.0 hands; large frame; well-muscled back; nicely set on and carried tail; long, oblique shoulder; strong legs with clear, dry joints and defined tendons; neck nicely set on and long

Use

multi-purpose saddle horse with an enormous jumping ability

History and Origins

When the Romans put to paper their knowledge of Germanic horses, these were described as standing to approximately 11.3 hands, with long manes and tails, a dark coat, and as being robust and enduring, moving with short, fast steps. What's more, the last remaining herds of feral horses

had sought shelter in the moors and forests of Westphalia. When they mated with farm and army horses that had run loose, a colourful mixture evolved which made the basic stock for the Westphalian "wild stud farms". In these studs, the mares would live out in the open the whole year through. Breeding selection was reduced to choosing the stallions which would get to the herds. The oldest stud farm was the Senner stud. Legend has it that it was established with the horses which the Romans had retained as spoils of war after the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest, in AD 9. However, first written records only date from 1160. In 1720, this stud counted 110 mares and 8 stal-

lions. The Kronen-Senner, named after their branding, were very popular saddle horses. But after inter-crossing with Thoroughbreds, the Senner slowly disappeared. The last entry into the studbook was made in 1933. When in 1826, the "Königlich-Preußische Rheinisch-Westfälische Landgestüt" (Royal Prussian Rhenish-Westphalian stud farm) was established, there were also the Münsterland small horse, the so-called "Dickköpfe" (thick-heads) from the wild stud farm at Emscherbruch, and the wild horses from Merfelder Bruch, near Dülmen. In the following 25 years, breeding in Westphalia was quite unsystematic. While one breeder would develop a heavy



warm-blood based on the Oldenburger, the other would prefer Eastern Friesian or Thoroughbred stallions. In 1900, there were 14 registered associations for owners of stallions. In 1904, the first Westphalian studbook was formed, and for the first time a breeding standard was formulated. The goal was to create a "strong, well-built saddle, carriage, and workhorse with good action" on the one hand, and on the other, "a powerful, broad, well-built workhorse with good action". To improve the blood, English Thoroughbred, Hanoverian, Oldenburg, and related breeds were permissible for the warm-blood, while for the cold-blood, Ardennes, Belgian, and related breeds were accepted. But since the Oldenburg did not cope very well at all with the conditions in Westphalia, from 1909 Anglo-Normans were admixed increasingly. Since 1920, the Hanoverian has taken such a vital influence on the Westphalian that the two breeds can hardly be distinguished by their exterior.

Temperament and Talent

The Westphalian is an elegant saddle horse, often chosen by horsemen for international competitions in dressage or show jumping.

Zweibrücken

Origin

Palatinate/Germany

Colours

all solid colours, mostly chestnut

Exterior

15.1 to 16.3 hands; strong, medium long, straight back; nearly level, short croup; powerful, satisfactory foundation; oblique, long shoulder; high withers; very elegant head



Use

pleasure and sporting horse

History and Origins

This warm-blood, whose head often shows the influence of Arab horses, owes its name to the

duchy of Zweibrücken. In 1755, Duke Christian IV founded the main stud, where primarily English halfbred mares were mated with Arab or Turkish stallions. Performance tests were made in the form of hunting over mountainous terrain, which required fast, powerful, and enduring horses.

The medium large animals soon became widely popular. In 1783, for example, Zweibrücken mares came to Neustadt an der Dosse, and stallions were sent to Trakehnen. However, the Napoleonic Wars meant a heavy loss for this breed. The precious horses were brought to the area of Nancy in France. Though in 1806 Napoleon decreed that the stock should be rendered to the stud farm, and though in 1811 the war mount of the emperor, the 13-year old grey "Fayoum", came back to sire the mares in Zweibrücken, this lucky phase was only short-lived. In 1814, on their retreat, the French army took the horses with them once more. As a consequence, "Nonius" fell into the hands of the Austrians. He would later become the patriarch of the Hungarian breed named after him. Breeding in Zweibrücken was continued with Bavarian and Norman stallions,



English Thoroughbreds, Arabs, and Oldenburg horses. In 1890, the famous stud farm was taken over by the Bavarians as royal and state stud. The goal was now to create a powerful saddle, carriage, and military horse. But due to World War I, the economic crisis in the 1920s, and World War II, breeding did not progress very well. The horses had to be evacuated on several occasions and the stud farm buildings were destroyed in 1945 by bombs. Since then, the stud farm did not belong to the federal state of Bavaria, but to Rheinland-Pfalz. Trakehner, Arab, and Hanoverian horses took great influence on the further development of the breed.

Temperament and Talent

Today, the Zweibrücken is a reliable, relaxed, and versatile saddle horse, which is being increasingly used for eventing.

Workhorses

Ardennes

Origin

French and Belgian Ardennes mountains

Colours

various shades of red roan; strawberry roan

Exterior

the mare stands to 15.2 hands, the stallion to 15.3; medium heavy cold-blood; medium body; large, sloping shoulder; broad, deep chest; muscular, long croup; very muscular hindquarters; small, dry head; small ears; lively eyes; well set on and upright neck; muscular, sturdy legs

Use

multi-purpose workhorse for agriculture and forestry; leisure horse

History and Origins

The Ardennes is held to be the direct descendant of the Solutré horse, which means it is one of the eldest species of the cold-blood breeds. Apparently, even Julius Caesar was thrilled by this species when he marched into Gaul. It is said that Nero ordered Ardennes mares to be brought to Rome, and in medieval times, the Ardennes was a highly sought-after horse for tournaments, as well as the favourite horse of the Crusaders. In later years, the Ardennes served as artillery wheelers for Napoleon's army and as a draught horse for vehicles and agricultural equipment.



To make the breed less heavy, the Ardennes was admixed again and again during its history with the blood of Arab horses. Today, this medium heavy cold-blood is often used to improve up the blood of other heavy species.

Temperament and Talent

The Ardennes is energetic and willing to work, can be used for any type of agricultural employment, has a robust health, and a good character. With its typical dense feathering, this horse, which developed in the French and Belgian Ardennes, in the lower mountains of the Vosges, the Champagne, and the Lorraine, is also very suitable as a coach horse, and is very tractable. The action of the Ardennes is energetic and fast, the trot is ground-covering.

Brabant

Origin

Belgium

Colours

all colours, predominantly strawberry, red, and blue roan

Exterior

16.1 to 17.1 hands; voluminous, massive, and compact horse; rela-

tively light, square head; rather short neck and back; short, sturdy legs with feathering; weight: 1540–2640 pounds (700–1200kg)

Use

draught horse for agriculture and forestry; workhorse in open-air museums; meat



History and Origins

As can be derived from its name, the heaviest of all workhorses originates in the Belgian province of Brabant. It is sometimes also called Belgian, Belgian Draught Horse, or Belgian Cold-Blood. It is also lovingly called "the most powerful living tractor on earth". Some horse experts claim the Brabant to be a direct descendant of the old Diluvial horse. The breed-

Workhorses

ing of this heavy, powerful species always lay in the charge of farmers. In 1866, the organisation "Le Cheval de Trait Belge" was founded. Until 1870, three livestock had developed: the lineage Gros de la Dendre, Gris des Hainot, and Colosses de la Mahaïque. Towards the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, Belgians were widely exported and had an enormous influence on other horse breeds throughout the world. But with the increase of machine use in agriculture beginning in the 1950s, the breeding of the Bra-

bant has been reduced. Unfortunately, this old breed nowadays often only serves to provide meat.

Bretone

Origin

Brittany/France

Colours

predominantly chestnut; bay, strawberry roan

Exterior

stands from 14.3 to 16.1 hands; rather small and short breed; strong and short neck and back;



muscular, double croup; square head, usually with a strong throat; powerful, well-developed joints; double mane

Use

work and carriage horse; meat

History and Origins

Although in the meantime several types have developed out of this old, down-to-earth breed from Brittany, it is still called Breton.

The Heavy Draught Breton Horse, a sturdy, compact animal with a muscular body and short legs, was developed by crossing with Percheron, Ardennes, and Boulonnais horses. The Postier Breton is a powerful, medium heavy coach and draught horse with energetic movement, especially in trot; it was influenced by the Norfolk Trotter and the Hackney.

The light Corlay is a coach and riding horse that has become increasingly rare; it is a mixture of Breton, English Thoroughbred, and Arab.

The Breton is also bred outside of France, especially in Italy, Spain, some Balkan countries, and Northern Africa.

Temperament and Talent

The breed is considered to be undemanding, with good stamina, willing to work, and very gentle. Today, mainly the heavy Breton type is bred in its place of origin.

Clydesdale

Origin

Scotland

Colours

predominantly bay; also red roan and black, rarely grey



Exterior

16.1 to 17.1 hands; large frame; medium heavy; well-balanced head, slightly convex profile; long, muscular neck; long, oblique shoulder; medium long, muscular back; long, even croup;

often large white markings on head and legs; thick, silky feathering at the back of the legs

Use

harness and draught horse

History and Origins

The Clydesdale horses originate in the Scottish lowlands called Lanarkshire, through which the Clyde River flows, and which used to be known as Clydesdale. In the mid-18th century, an improvement of the road conditions meant that horses were increasingly used as draught animals and

less as weight bearers. The robust indigenous mares were crossed with heavy stallions from Flanders to create a draught horse that could work in the coal mines.

Nevertheless, the Clydesdale is said to go back to the 13th century, when large-bodied war-horses were bred. Later, crossed with Norman and Hungarian horses, an "elegant breed" was sought by knights for tournaments. And in the times of Mary Stuart, it was said that "what the navy meant for England, the horses meant for Scotland". Even



Napoleon supposedly admired the Scottish horses during the Battle of Waterloo.

Later, at the end of the 19th century, the Clydesdale Horse Society, formed in 1877, committed itself to the purity of the breed. From 1884 until World War I, numerous horses were exported to the USA and Canada.

Temperament and Talent

Today, Clydesdale horses are favourite harness horses in the United States, in New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

Finnish Horse

Origin

Finland

Colours

mostly chestnut; also bay and black

Exterior

approximately 15.2 hands; compact, light cold-blood; muscular shoulder; wide chest; little withers; medium large head; friendly eyes; sharp ears; short, strong neck; short, well-proportioned legs; thick mane and tail; striking good and fast trot



Use

forestry; race trotting; pleasure riding

History and Origins

In Finland, the performance of a horse was always much more important than its appearance or its lineage.

The Finnish horse is held to be the fastest cold-blood horse in the world. Bred since 1907, it was at first planned to be a heavy work-horse, but in the past few years, the trend has turned and it is becoming more of an all-round talent. Today, there are three different types of Finnish horse, varying according to size and sturdiness. One type is predominantly used for forestry work, hauling wood.

Workhorses

The second type of Finnish horse is an astonishingly fast trotter and is hitched to sulkies for harness races. The third type is a calm and easy-going saddle horse and especially popular with riding beginners.

Temperament and Talent

The Finnish horse of today is agile and nimble-footed, with good staying power and toughness of constitution, as well as being exceedingly gentle and good-natured.

Freiberger

Origin

Switzerland

Colours

mostly solid brown and chestnut, rarely grey

Exterior

14.3 to 16.0 hands; light cold-blood; good conformation; powerful, short back; medium long neck; small, expressive head; short, sturdy legs

Use

Swiss army horse; pleasure horse

History and Origins

It can be supposed that the Freiberger developed from a crossing of Noric and Oriental horses, admixed later with Ardennes blood. At home in the mountain farms of the Swiss Jura, for many years the dependable, enduring, lively, and not too heavy draught horse was used as a post chaise horse not only in Switzerland, but also in France. From 1868 on, it was crossed with Anglo-Norman sires from



France and with English Thoroughbreds. Because of the admixture of English Thoroughbred blood, by the turn of the century, the Freiberger was hardly suitable anymore for agricultural work.

But between the two World Wars, the requirements of the army brought with it a change and a step back in the breeding of Freiberger horses, with the tendency once again toward heavy draught horses. In 1942, its blood was once more improved when the half-blood Arab "Shagya I" was imported.

Temperament and Talent

Today, the friendly horse with a strong character is used for manoeuvres in uneven terrain; it is also popular as a pleasure and harness horse for the whole family.

Irish Draught

Origin

Ireland

Colours

bay, chestnut, grey

Exterior

15.0 to 17.0 hands; sturdy rib cage; high withers; good shoul-

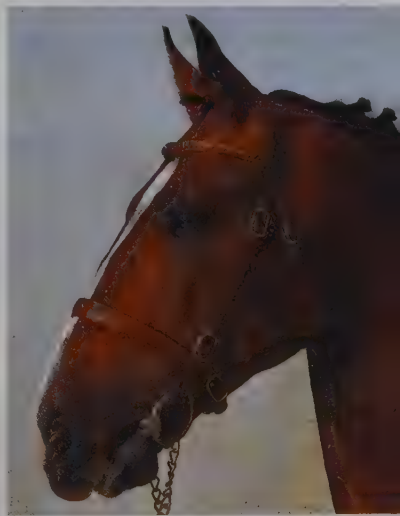
der; sloping croup; firm legs with powerful limbs and joints; big hooves; long neck; rather large, not too elegant head

Use

work and carriage horse; riding

History and Origins

This old Irish breed probably developed from Connemara ponies, Spanish horses, and old English warm-bloods. It developed into an exceptionally versa-



tile horse, which looked good both hitched to the plough and pulling a coach, and could even be used for hunting. However, it nearly became extinct during World War I and because, in later

years, it was exported to provide meat. Luckily, this decline was stopped finally in 1965 with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Today, the "Irish Horse Breeders' Society" takes care of the stock.

Temperament and Talent

The Irish Draught has a great talent for jumping, and when crossed with noble warm-bloods or Thoroughbreds, this breed produces excellent hunting and jumping horses, like for example the Hunter.

Jutland

Origin

Jutland/Denmark

Colours

predominantly chestnut, less dark brown and black

Exterior

15.1 to 15.3 hands; powerful, not too long back; wide chest; muscular shoulder; broad, round croup; short legs with feathered pasterns; large, round hooves; heavy neck; expressive head; friendly eyes; long ears



Use

heavy draught horse

History and Origins

Its home is the Danish peninsula Jutland. This very old breed was already a popular war-horse in the Middle Ages. Similar types were also bred in Northern Germany and the Netherlands, and those horses which the Vikings brought to Great Britain also belonged to the same type. It can be assumed that the stud farms exchanged sires very early on, in order to breed powerful horses for the knights. Since the 19th century, Yorkshire Coach Horses, Cleveland Bays, and Suffolk Punches were vital for the further development of the Jutland. The best horses are the descendants from a sire called "Oppenheim", born in 1859, who probably carried English Shire and Suffolk blood in him. However, "Aldrup Munkedal" (born in 1893) is known to be the forbear of this breed. Jutland horses have also had some influence on the development of other heavy breeds.

Temperament and Talent

The powerful draught horses with great stamina have a good-natured and balanced character.

Noric (South German Cold-blood)

Origin

Austria

Colours

brown, chestnut, black; grey; also leopard patterned

Exterior

15.3 to 16.1 hands; large frame; good musculature; deep rump; long, broad, double croup; powerful, well-developed, dry joints; hard hooves; medium heavy head; gentle, expressive eyes



Use

workhorse for agriculture and forestry; coach horse also drawing brewery carriages and similar prestigious vehicles

History and Origins

The Noric is a very old breed that developed in the Roman province of Noricum (covering approximately today's Carinthia), from where it derived its name. During the Renaissance, the church began to engage itself for this breed, and the archbishops of Salzburg devoted themselves to a systematic breeding program. From the 17th to the 19th centuries, the blood of Andalusian, Neapolitan, Belgian, Kladruber, Clydesdale, Norman, Oldenburg, Holstein, and other breeds was introduced. Since 1884 though, concentration has been focused on pure-bred horses. The two types of Noric horses are the lighter Oberländer and the heavy Pinzgauer, named after the Austrian region Pinzgau, in the federal state of Salzburg. Since 1952, the two types are known under the term South German Cold-Blood.

Temperament and Talent

Because for many years the Noric was bred in mountainous

regions, it has adapted to the demands of the steep terrain like no other horse. It is an exceedingly well-balanced mountain horse, hardy and undemanding, with a rather lazy temperament and good disposition.

Percheron

Origin

Le Perche/France

Colours

predominantly grey; little fewer black



Exterior

15.2 to 16.3 hands; heavy cold-blood with good conformation; fine head with a wide forehead; heavy, well-set neck; muscular, slightly oblique shoulder; strong back; broad, double, slightly sloping croup; dry, healthy legs; expressive eyes

Use

draught, farm, and coach horse

History and Origins

In spite of its massive body, the Percheron is a very elegant appearance. This is why this old country horse is sometimes called a "too large Arab". And in fact, it does carry Arab blood. The Percheron was developed through crosses with Norman and Oriental as well as Andalusian horses, and later again crossed with heavy Boulonnais.

The Percheron originates in the country surrounding Le Perche in France, especially in the regions Sarthe, Eure-et-Loir, Loir-et-Cher, and Orne.

In France, even today only those horses may be called Percheron who were foaled in one of the above-named places of origin. In the age of the post chaise, pulling



the heavy mail coaches of France, this good-natured and willing worker was much lighter than it is today and would reach an astonishing speed when trotting. It became quite famous through its employment with the Parisian bus company, when the buses were still pulled by harness horses.

Temperament and Talent

This workhorse with good staying power has an astonishingly fiery temperament. Today, Percheron horses are also bred in Great Britain, the USA, Canada, South Africa, and Argentina; they are very popular when shown at country fairs.

Rhenish

Origin

Rhineland/Germany

Colours

bay, strawberry roan, red roan, chestnut

Exterior

15.2 to 16.1 hands; medium heavy; oblique and muscular shoulder; very muscular croup; dry and good bone; very hard hooves; strong and well set on neck; very nice face with friendly eyes

Use

forestry; coach horse pulling covered wagons; in danger of extinction

History and Origins

Belgian Brabant and Ardennes horses make up the breed-stock of this powerful and undemanding workhorse, which was developed in the German Rhine province at the beginning of the 19th century. Because of its great ability working on industrial sites and in agriculture, the Rhenish was later on also bred in the German regions of Westphalia and Saxony. The stud farm of Wickrath, founded in 1839, took it upon itself to promote the development of this versatile breed, which during wars served as heavy artillery horses. The heavy draught horse shows its enormous power, and it has a good, free action, especially in pace and trot. Around 1930, the Rhenish



made up approximately 50% of Germany's horses. After World War II, though, the demand for this breed decreased dramatically, in spite of its good reputation for character and willingness to work. Today, this formerly popular breed is on the red list of endangered species published every year by the German GEH (society for the protection of old domestic animal breeds).

Schwarzwälder Fuchs

Origin

Black Forest/Germany

Colours

various shades of chestnut

Exterior

mares 14.2 to 15.1 hands; stallions 15.3 hands; light to medium frame; oblique shoulder; broad, very muscular croup; strong, clear joints; hard hooves; strong, well set on neck; short, dry, striking head; expressive eyes

Use

forestry and agriculture; pleasure, riding, and harness horse; in danger of extinction

History and Temperament

At first sight, it looks a little bit like

the Haflinger. This small but very elegant workhorse is closely related to the Noric. Experts think that it is merely due to environmental influence that the Schwarzwälder Fuchs became a lighter horse over the course of generations. This diligent, undemanding, and hardy breed is exceedingly sure-footed. Even today, in mountainous areas, it is used as a carriage horse and for hauling wood. The pretty chestnuts can also frequently be seen hitched to covered wagons, coaches, and sleighs for tourists. They have found some popularity with pleasure riders and in har-



ness. All in all, though, the population has decreased considerably, so that the Schwarzwälder Fuchs is now also on the German "Red List of endangered domestic animal breeds".



Shire Horse

Origin

Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire/Great Britain

Colours

predominantly dark brown and bay, with white markings; black, grey

Exterior

from 16.0 hands; short, very muscular back; deep-set, oblique, wide shoulder; ample chest; long, broad, very muscular croup; tail set high up; straight, relatively long leg; large, sturdy hooves; long, arched neck that is well set on; long head tending to a ram's head; large, docile eyes; long, slim, sharp ears

Use

draught and workhorse; prestigious carriages

History and Temperament

In height, the Shire Horse, which was originally bred in the English counties Leicestershire, Staffordshire, and Derbyshire, is the greatest horse breed in the world. It is thought to be a descendant of the bulky war-horses from the times of the Crusades, which the Normans had brought over to Great Britain and mated with indigenous mares. But experts are really at issue about the history of this great and docile horse. However, in Elizabethan times this giant among all horses was referred to as the "Great Horse of England".

When the demand for war mounts decreased, the breeding of the Shire was oriented on the requirements for farm work. Notes were taken about the breed, and quality standards were put up.

In 1878, the "Shire Horse Society" was formed.

Temperament and Talent

This powerful horse, that can pull up to five tons and eats no more than two bales of hay per day, is today used predominantly as a parade horse and for pulling brewery carriages.

Suffolk Punch

Origin

Suffolk/Great Britain

Colours

chestnut, no markings

Exterior

15.3 to 16.3 hands; relatively long back; small withers; massive neck; beautiful, dry head; extremely hard legs; weighs up to 2200 lbs. (1000 kg)

Use

coach horse; workhorse

History and Origins

Supposedly, this powerful workhorse developed from the Norman war-horse. A Suffolk Punch was first mentioned in 1506, in Camden's "Britannia".

For a while, it was crossed with Norman and Belgian horses, but since 1880, no admixture of blood is tolerated. The Suffolk Punch is easy to feed, lives to an old age, has stamina, and a calm and docile disposition. The coat of the Suffolk Punch is always chestnut that can come in various shades. Unfortunately, the only clean-legged British draught horse has become rare. But since the 1970s, the Suffolk Punch has increasingly been exported to North America, where it is a popular farm helper.



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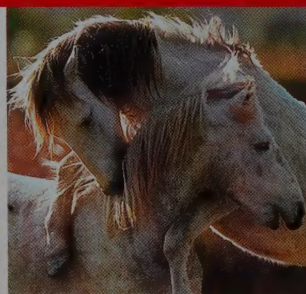




Horses

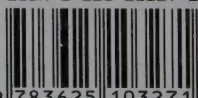
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